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75¢

CHC struggles with rising population

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center, the only hospital in the CNMI, opened to the public in 1986. At the time, it was built to serve a population of less than 20,000.

Purpose of improved status: Business, ease of travel

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It has been 26 years since Rakibul Islam Minto left Bangladesh to work in the United States island territory of the CNMI. He arrived on Saipan in 1991, where he first worked as a security guard. After managing to save enough money, Minto partnered with

one of his countrymen in a business venture in 1998. Since 2003, he has slowly branched out to other services. He is now the general manager-owner of Asia Pacific Market, on top of having an auto repair shop and providing maintenance service, tax collection, and documents handling.

Despite these, he remains one of the long-time guest workers that

Today, 31 years later and with a CNMI population that is conservatively estimated at 50,000, the hospital is struggling to keep up.

The more than doubling of the population and the current state of the hospital's size means that CHC is constantly experiencing a shortage of

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are under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Nonimmigrant Visa or CW1—a program that allows foreigners to legally work in the CNMI. The visa is renewed annually.

That's why the fading hopes of Minto and the likes of Bang Won Suk, Mami Ikeda, Flora Dela Cruz, Ariel and Edwina Ruiz, and Russel

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US: A nation of immigrants, but is ambivalent about immigration

By JERRY SCHWARTZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—America's self-image is forever intertwined with the melting pot. It's a nation that welcomes the world's wretched refuse, a nation built by immigrants, a nation whose very motto is "E Pluribus Unum"—Out of Many, One.

America's history also is replete with efforts to shut the golden door to arrivals from China, from Eastern and Southern Europe—and most recently, from predominantly Muslim nations.

America's relationship with immi-

gration is...complicated.

"Many of us—politicians, people who are speaking out against the impact of the administration's actions—are saying, 'We are a nation of immigrants. This goes against our most important values.' And that is absolutely true," said Erika Lee, director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota. "But we also have a long record of barring immigrants, denigrating them, building walls. That's the flip side."

Said Mae Ngai, a professor of history at Columbia University and author of "Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America": "We struggle over these things. Both strains have always been present."

The leaders of colonial America knew they needed immigrants to populate their new land. But Benjamin Franklin grumbled about an influx of "swarthy" Germans, and the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 made it harder to attain citizenship and easier to deport non-citizens deemed dangerous.

The acts were controversial; most were allowed to expire in a few years, but the deportation law remains, even today. And their justification—that some or many immigrants were dangerous interlopers—has been invoked again and again.

The rise of the Know Nothings, a nativist and populist movement of the 1840s and '50s, was spurred by the rise in German and Irish immigration, and by fears that the Catholic newcomers were loyal to a foreign entity—the pope—and incompatible with American values.

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MCS CLASS OF THE YEAR

Members of Mount Carmel School's Class of 1976 do an obligatory celebration dance upon receiving the title of 2017 MCS Class of the Year during the 5th Annual AlumKnight Dinner at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last Saturday.

ERWIN ENCINARES

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Tom Brady and the New England Patriots did what they always do: Win the Super Bowl.

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Local

Susupe Lake Park eyed as another tourism spot

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A newly introduced House bill that seeks to create the Susupe Lake Wildlife Park is being touted as a means to create a new attraction that would benefit the community and give tourists another place to visit in the CNMI.

Lake Susupe and its surrounding wetlands are a sanc-

tuary for several wildlife like the moorhen and fancy-tailed guppies. Birds from other countries also use it as temporary stopover in their annual migrations. Tall trees and a number of small ponds surround the lake.

This is why House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) wants to turn Susupe Lake into a wildlife park. He introduced House Bill 20-13

at the start of the 20th Legislature last week.

"It will be another tourist attraction that could also generate money for our economy. We will have our stakeholders like the Department of Public Lands and Coastal Resources Management involved with the project," Demapan said.

Digging and dredging could be done to improve certain areas of the lake. "Who knows,

there could be artifacts and other treasures in the lake that could benefit the CNMI."

Demapan said the project can be done in phases and it would be easier since there has already been a design done by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"I know it is a bit ambitious but we need to be creative in coming up with new attractions. I'm glad the design is

done so we can no longer pay for it. We'll see what assistance we could get from our federal partners."

"We can start from one side and do it in phases. It will be a lot easier for us. I'm sure the project won't cost \$30 million because we will have it done by portions," added Demapan

ARC Pacific officials visit Saipan

Two officials of the American Red Cross updated Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last week on some of the programs the ARC Pacific Islands are working on that would help the CNMI's disaster preparedness program.

American Red Cross Pacific Islands chief executive officer Coralie Chun Matayoshi and chief development officer Jennifer L. Dotson were joined by legislators and local ARC officials when they paid a courtesy visit on Torres last week.

Torres said that Matayoshi and Dotson showed them a pillow case-like bag that could help the community in times of disaster, especially after Typhoon Soudelor.

The bag contains a blanket, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, and other essentials that would help you if a typhoon hits. It also acts as an emergency bag for important documents.

"They just presented that bag to us and showed us the other programs that they are work-

ing on. The bag would simply help you in clearing and storing your stuff for emergency. You can just put everything in one bag," said Torres.

Acting Senate president Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota), House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), special assistant for management and budget Virginia Villagomez,

Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Clyde Norita, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Gerald Deleon Guerrero, HSEM operations center manager Joey Dela Cruz, and financial analyst Tracy Norita were the other officials that joined Torres.

ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsch, ARC board chair Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, vice chair Larry Lee, and services director J.D. Tenorio were also present, along with three Northern Marianas College interns Shawn Camacho, Christine Roque, and John Capuyon.

DFEMS, in cooperation
See ARC on Page 4



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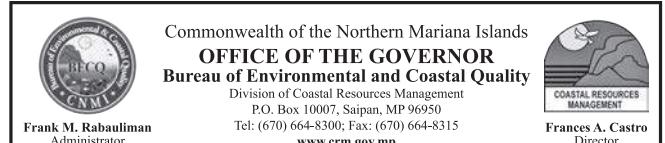
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OCEAN VISTA RESORT PUBLIC HEARING POSTPONED

This is to give notice that the public hearing scheduled for February 09, 2017 for the Ocean Vista Resort in Capitol Hill, Saipan, has been postponed until further notice.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Ocean Vista Resort project and 2017 Amendment application.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Four tourists sue after vehicle rolled downhill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Four tourists are suing a tour company and its driver for negligence after they were

allegedly injured when the driver accelerated a Nissan Pathfinder too fast, causing

the vehicle they were on to roll downhill and overturn on Mt. Tapochau last April.

Lu He, Xue Mei Yin, Wen Ming Zeng, and Yemin Zhu, all Chinese nationals, are su-

ing Saipan Travel Inc. and its driver, Zhi Hong Zhu.

The tourists, through William M. Fitzgerald, alleged that they sustained serious and permanent injuries such as broken bones and head injuries. They asked the Superior Court to hold the defendants liable for damages.

Saipan Tribune contacted Saipan Travel yesterday but their president, Tom Liu, refused to comment.

Fitzgerald stated in the complaint that the four tourists participated in activities organized by their travel agent, Saipan Travel. As part of the tour, the four embarked on a sightseeing tour on April 29,

2016, and went up Mt. Tapochau on a Nissan Pathfinder owned by Saipan Travel.

As they were about to leave Mt. Tapochau, Fitzgerald said, Zhu put the vehicle into reverse and then stepped on the accelerator to back up. Fitzgerald said Zhu accelerated too fast, lost control of the vehicle, causing it to career off the parking area and down a hill.

He said the Nissan Pathfinder rolled down the hill and overturned. When the vehicle stopped, the tourists were thrown out.

Fitzgerald said Saipan Travel is responsible and liable for all actions taken by its driver.

Thornburgh confident with PSS funding

By YUUKI NISHIDA
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STUDENT REPORTER

As President Donald Trump finalizes his Cabinet picks, the nomination of Michigan's Betsy DeVos to become his education secretary has riled up many within the education circle.

The nomination of DeVos has been opposed in many blogs, by PTA administrators, and protesters denouncing any attempts to replace acting Secretary of Education Phil Rosenfelt. Trump described DeVos as "a brilliant and passionate education advocate."

Much of the controversy around DeVos focuses on her support of charter schools, which are outside the state school system but are publicly funded and set up by teachers, parents, or community groups.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, her work in Michigan involved "elevating for-profit schools with no consideration of the severe harm done to traditional public schools" despite "overwhelming evidence" that charter schools were no more successful than public schools.

Tim Thornburgh, the federal programs officer of the Public School System, feels confident that the CNMI Public School System will not be drastically affected whether DeVos gets the position or not.

Thornburgh says that there would not be a "big change" in the CNMI's funding and that any change would lead to just a "small reduction in funding."

"I am hopeful that any reduction will be very modest," said Thornburgh.

OAG wants \$100K bail for Murphy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General wants a \$100,000 cash bail for retired Army reservist Michael Barry Murphy if the Superior Court grants Murphy's request to hold a preliminary hearing in his second sexual abuse of a minor case.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub wants Murphy's bid for a preliminary examination be denied "as the case does not substantially deprive" the 54-year-old Murphy of his liberty.

If not, the court should set a \$100,000 bail on Murphy so that he has a legitimate right to a preliminary examination, Weintraub said.

Defense counsel Janet H. King asked the court for a preliminary hearing so that Murphy can obtain information regarding the charges against him and file a bill of particulars—a list of written statements made by a party to a court proceeding, upon demand of another party in the case that seeks for more details of a claim or defense.

Murphy is currently out in the other criminal case after posting a \$50,000 bond. In that case, the government accused him with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, for allegedly sexually abusing a 4-year-old girl on Aug. 6, 2016.

The government summoned Murphy to appear in court and answer the charges in the second case. King then requested the court for a preliminary

hearing in the second case. Preliminary hearing refers to a court proceeding to determine if a defendant should be tried for the crime charged based on whether there is substantial evidence that he/she committed the offense.

In opposing the motion for preliminary examination, Weintraub said the court should deny the request because Murphy is not "substantially deprived of his liberty."

Weintraub said in the second case, Murphy was never arrested as the government served him only with penal summons.

Weintraub said neither the U.S. Constitution nor the CNMI Constitution provide the right to a preliminary examination to an individual who has been charged through penal summons and information.

The prosecutor said the purpose of a preliminary examination is to determine whether there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed and that the accused committed it.

Weintraub said the case has had no effect on Murphy's liberty as he was never arrested and is not under any bail conditions for these charges.

In this second case, the government charged the defendant with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and one count of indecent exposure in the first degree. The incident allegedly happened from 1994 to 2004 when the victim was a minor. The victim is now 26 years old, according to court documents.

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IMMIGRATION

From Page 1

"If you substitute 'Muslim' for 'Catholic,' they would sound very similar to what you hear today," Lee said.

In 1868, the U.S. signed a treaty encouraging Chinese migration; 24 years later, the Chinese Exclusion Act turned away immigrants from what was even then the world's most populous nation.

What had happened in between? The Chinese immi-

grants who had shouldered much of the work of building the West had come to be seen as a threat—the "Yellow Peril."

Fear and bigotry were intermixed. In 1917, Congress passed legislation requiring a literacy test for immigrants, though only after four presidential vetoes. "They knew they couldn't say, 'Keep out the Jews and the Italians,'" but that was the purpose, Ngai said.

In 1921 and 1924, in the aftermath of World War I

and the Red Scare that followed the Russian Revolution, the first quotas took effect, setting limits for immigration from countries that were seen as undesirable. There was to be little immigration from Africa, none from Asia or Arab countries, and the flow from southern and eastern Europe was curtailed.

Jewish refugees from Europe were blocked during and after World War II—first because of fears that they might be German sympathizers, then

because of fears that they were Communists. "History doesn't look too kindly on this, because we know how preposterous this was," said Rebecca Kobrin, an assistant professor of history at Columbia.

But for all Americans' suspicions of immigrants, said Maria Cristina Garcia, professor of American studies at Cornell University, there has been an appreciation of what they did.

"Since the early republic, Americans have recognized that immigrants are essen-

tial to nation-building: Immigrants farmed the prairies, worked in the factories, built the streets, canals and railroad tracks. They mined the ore, planted and harvested the crops, and provided basic services. Government and busi-

ness actively recruited foreign labor to facilitate economic growth," she said.

As hard as it often was—and as much bigotry as immigrants endured—immigration became central to the American narrative.

ERRATUM

In the Marianas Visitors Authority press release "PR NMI December 2016 Arrival Trends" issued on Feb. 2, 2017, the following correction is needed: This was the third highest recorded December arrivals in NMI history, with the highest recorded in December 1996 with 63,318 arrivals. Also, the NMI received three ship arrivals in December with 3,141 visitors aboard.

PURPOSE

From Page 1

Guiao-Gozon, and thousands of others like them was rekindled when the issue of granting improved status to long-time guest workers came up once more.

"It would be easier for us long-time workers to put up businesses here if we can earn permanent residency status. A lot of guest workers here have contributed to the CNMI's economy and some even stayed when it was down," said Minto.

He added that an improved status would also mean lesser fees after U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services increased the renewal fee from \$325 to \$460 last Dec. 23.

Minto said he also consulted an immigration lawyer if he could apply for an E2 or H2B visa category, but was told that he would not qualify. "It would take a long time for the application and there's no guarantee of being approved. Plus the fee is \$3,000."

An E2 investor visa allows

an individual to enter and work inside the U.S. while an H2B visa is for temporary non-agricultural "service or labor" granted "on a one-time, seasonal, peakload or intermittent basis."

Ikeda, who also managed to put up her own business with the help of her late brother Kazu, expressed grief over the situation of CW1 workers, especially those affected by the numerical cap and have no choice but to exit the CNMI and wait while their documents are being processed. She is also under the CW1 program but is waiting for approval of her E2 visa category.

"I applied for E2 visa since it is the only way for me to continue my stay here in the CNMI. But it is still pending," said Ikeda, who owns a document processing and accounting service firm. "But what about those people who contributed so much to the CNMI, they have to leave while new CW workers are coming in? It doesn't make sense to me and it is insulting."

Even immediate relatives

of legal CNMI permanent residents are having problems after their parole renewals were withheld, with USCIS Guam waiting for Honolulu's final decision.

"Their renewals are in limbo since filing in September 2016. They've been on hold and nothing has moved until now. I'm hoping that USCIS and President Trump won't kick them out. Some of them even took over the businesses of their principal LPRs that have passed away."

She predicts that more small businesses would close down if no permanent solution is found. "They may say, why did we not apply for a proper visa or just point fingers and tell us it's our fault, but we could have if we had enough funds to pay for the fees. Or if we weren't given hope for an improved status."

Hassle-free

For Bang, Dela Cruz, Guiao-Gozon, and the Ruizes, residency status would give long-time foreign laborers an easier time in going back to their country ei-

ther for a vacation or emergency without the hassle of applying for a CW1 visa just to return to the CNMI.

"It would give us long-time guest workers more security to stay here. Recently we had problems with the renewals and CW1 cap. The U.S. government must be aware of the status of the CW1 workers here, especially those who have kids," said Bang, who had been working on Saipan for 18 years now.

"I join the others who are hoping that our status improves since it is also good for business and the economy. We still need to go through the U.S. embassy in Korea if ever we go back there and when we return here."

If granted an improved status, Dela Cruz, Guiao-Gozon, and the Ruizes said they would choose to remain in the CNMI rather than move to the mainland.

"Honestly, if given permanent residency or an improved status here, I would stay here and not move to the mainland. I don't like the cold weather and

it is hard to leave Saipan since it has become my second home," said Dela Cruz, who had been working here since 1997.

"It is here where I grew old and it is here where I earned the money that had helped my family back in the Philippines. So why would I leave here? If given the chance and our status improves here, I would just go to the States for vacation since I also have relatives there," added the mother of two, whose eldest had just turned 19.

Guiao-Gozon echoed Dela Cruz's sentiments. "Long-time guest workers would no longer be worried if we are going to be renewed or not, or if the cap would affect us. If we're given improved status, CW1 workers can always easily come back to Saipan if ever there's an emergency where we have to go back to our country."

She said she had been used to the island life since first being assigned in Rota. "Island life is very simple. The cost of living here is cheap compared to other places. It is not crowded and a less stressful working

environment."

The Ruizes also want to remain here.

"You're going to relocate to the mainland and work there. What for, when you already have a job here? Plus, if ever you're going on vacation or visit your country for an emergency, you would have a bigger travel expense," said Ariel Ruiz.

Edwina Ruiz, Ariel's wife, added that the cost of living either in Guam or other U.S. states is higher where you need to have at least two jobs in order to afford it.

"We're much comfortable living here. This has been our second home."

"The process of going back to the Philippines, either for vacation or an emergency, is really tedious. You're going to pay additional \$190, need to go through the embassy, and secure other documents that you need to go back to Saipan. If you have a permanent residency status, it would be a lot easier for guest workers like me to come back to Saipan," added Edwina Ruiz.

CHC

From Page 1

rooms, faced as it is with high volumes of patients that are being admitted to the hospital.

The situation has reached a point where the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which runs the hospital, has expressed concerns regarding the hospital's capability to provide proper healthcare.

"The hospital has been receiving a high census. The census is huge; our physicians stay late nights and our nurses are exhausted because of the fact that it is a closed acute care facility. This requires more attention from our nurses," said CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña.

"What we've seen lately is [CHC's full capacity] every day."

Under these conditions, the quality of healthcare is affected, Muña concedes.

Nurses and physicians that are sleep-deprived have a harder time focusing on the patients and they are risking their own health, largely because of the possibility of developing medical conditions that arise from sleep de-

privation, such as higher risk to chronic health problems: blood pressure, heart disease, and stroke, to name a few.

"If you have an issue with staffing, that means they have to work overtime, which is concerning to [CHC] financially and also affects the quality of care," Muña said.

CHC hospital administrator Jesse Tudela told *Saipan Tribune* that the wards most affected by the high census are the medical and surgical units and the intensive care unit, or MedSurg and ICU respectively.

"The ICU consists of only four rooms, so if the patient is in a critical stage, we have to go to an extension room, which is in the MedSurg. We do not have enough rooms because the hospital was built back in 1986. The recommended capacity for our ICU should be about eight to 10 rooms but we only have four," he said.

"The MedSurg only has 40 available rooms for their use. Many times, due to the extent of the patient's illness, the length of stay is significantly long, which causes the holdup and backlog in the room being used. The patient turnover is

very low," he said.

Patient turnover is the rate at which patients are admitted, treated, or discharged from a hospital and is affected by variables such as their length of stay and the severity of their condition.

Average daily census for 2016

The average daily census is the number of patients that are admitted to a hospital. Inpatients occupy beds, units, wards, or anything in the hospital, exclusive of newborns.

According to Tudela, the 2016 average daily census per month has been consistently in the 50's. This means that for each month of 2016, about 50 patients avail of CHC's inpatient services daily, with the highest number of patients for the year in November 2016, at 61.1 average daily patients.

January 2016, which yielded an average of 51.52 average daily census, is 3 points less than January 2017's average daily census at 54.5.

This information implies that there is a constant increase in patients going to CHC for inpatient services.

"The turnover time is not as quick as we want it to be be-

cause these patients are really sick. If [the patients] require, say, accelerated tertiary care, we would work with medical referral. Even that is a process; it is a process that requires them to be processed in a fast manner but not as fast as we want it to be. Another factor is the doctors must also be willing to accept the patient," said Muña.

For 2015, the average census per month is 52, while 2016 yielded 56.

Adjustments

CHC has since been adjusting to the high census.

Because the hospital has been filled up to its capacity, the emergency room, or ER, has been utilized by the hospital as an observation area.

Muña said patients that are approved for discharge are being asked to do so in order to help accommodate the other patients.

"When you have patients that should be discharged, the patient must be discharged on time so that they do not hold the room unnecessarily," she said.

Muña added that when a patient comes in and requires a room to be treated, options are

sought to accommodate the patient, such as asking other patients that have a room to move to the ER if their condition is not as serious.

"It is a different scenario every time. We have even used the pediatric ward to room patients in the hospital. As long as there is no harm and the patient is considered safe, the patient could be moved to a different part of the facility," she said.

Muña has already sent a proposal for the improvement and renovation of CHC to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

The proposal included various improvements and renovations that are much needed by the hospital, such as redesigning the ER, the expansion of the inpatient pharmacy, the repair and renovation of patient room toilets and

sinks, the re-designing of the old Family Care Clinic into Chemotherapy Unit, and the expansion and/or renovation of the ICU, Operating Unit, Laboratory Unit, and the Labor and Delivery Unit.

The proposal has a projected total cost of \$9 million.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* in an email issued by his office that, "The ability of CHCC to meet the needs of the community remains at the top of my administration's priorities," he said.

"I have spoken with CHCC officials on the constraints of the current facility and how we can scale to meet the needs of our growing community. I am looking forward to supporting their efforts to enhance their services and improve our community's health outcomes."

ARC

From Page 2

with ARC-CNMI and the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts, has been installing fire alarms in houses. Torres said more than 250 have already been

installed since October and there are still 800 alarm systems available.

He encouraged the public to avail of the alarm systems. "There are still alarm systems available. All you have to do is get in touch with DFEMS or the Red Cross since this is a joint project." (Jon Perez)

JM Guerrero is 2017 AlumKnight of the Year



ERWIN ENCINARES

2017 AlumKnight of the year Jesus "JM" Guerrero shakes hands with AlumKnight Association president Charles Cepeda as Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero looks on after the presentation of the plaque.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Jesus "JM" Guerrero has been named Mount Carmel School's Alumni of the Year.

The school's alumni, who

call themselves the AlumKnights, named Guerrero, a 1968 AlumKnight, its 2017 AlumKnight of the Year during Mount Carmel School's 5th Annual AlumKnight dinner at the Pacific Islands Club

Saipan last Saturday.

Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, who is also a 1991 AlumKnight, made the announcement.

The award is presented to

distinguished alumni of MCS, with past recipients being former governors, past and current lawmakers, law professors, and more.

"I am deeply honored and humbled at such a selection.

"My wife, Rieko, and my son, James, who is also a graduate of this great school, were excited and helped me accept the selection," said Guerrero.

Guerrero is an established businessman in the CNMI and owns multiple businesses including Hula Girl and JM & Associates, which serves local delicacies and provides professional services, respectively.

Deleon Guerrero was excited about the turnout of the 5th Annual MCS dinner, which also doubles as fundraiser but is promoted as a "fun raiser."

"We are overjoyed and humbled by the turnout and by the support of our AlumKnights. We especially appreciate the Mount Carmel AlumKnight Association headed by Charles Cepeda for putting this program together. The turnout is much better than what we expected," said Deleon Guerrero.

"We do not want to focus on

asking our AlumKnights for money. We wanted to focus on helping them come back together as an MCS family. For many of them, this is a chance to have a mini reunion with your classmates, a chance to see their teachers that they haven't seen for a while, and just a chance to reconnect," he added.

Cepeda, AlumKnight Association president, was also happy with the turnout. Cepeda said the funds raised will be used for the renovation and improvement of the MCS campus.

"Tonight it is all about bringing back the AlumKnights of MCS. We are bringing them together, sharing stories with their classmates and with all the other years. There is a lot of turnout tonight and we are very happy. Tonight, it is all about the fun evening with the different AlumKnight groups," he said.

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2 copper wire thieves plead guilty, get prison term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two notorious copper wire thieves were slapped with prison terms Tuesday last week after pleading guilty to theft for stealing 139 feet

of copper wire at the former Capital Bowling Center in Garapan and admitting to violating the terms and conditions of their probation in previous criminal cases.

Aldan Kaainoa Ogarto, 35, and Barry Lloyd G. Lizama,

44, pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal.

Ogarto was sentenced to a prison term of four years and three months imprisonment, with credit for time served since Sept. 9, 2016.

Lizama was slapped with

a total imprisonment of three years and five months, with credit for 144 days of time served.

After serving their sentences, they will be placed on supervised probation for five years. They were each ordered

to pay a \$500 fine and \$100 in court costs.

Ogarto, while Daniel Guidotti is counsel for Lizama.

Police arrested Ogarto and Lizama last September after a witness called the police after he saw two men, later identified as Ogarto and Lizama, getting rolls of copper wire from a trunk of a car at Lower Miha Housing area at night on July 21, 2016.

Police said that based on court records, Lizama was on supervised release after being imprisoned on Nov. 9, 2015. Among the conditions of his supervised release is that Lizama shall not engage in any activity involving electrical or copper wires.

Ogarto and Lizama stole 139 feet of copper wire from Forson Holdings, LLC (formerly the Capital Bowling building) in Garapan on July 21, 2016. The value of the copper wire was estimated at more than \$250 but less than \$20,000.

Ogarto also admitted violating his probation in a previous case by failing to report to the Office of Adult Probation, paying his fine, assessment fee, and probation fee, performing community service, and failing to obey laws.

Lizama also admitted violating his probation in a previous case by failing to pay his fine, assessment fee, and probation fee, and by failing to obey all laws.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig is counsel for

OAG: DPS busy with Soudelor recovery

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General said then-police captain and now major Lawrence M. Camacho complained to the Civil Service Commission about the Department of Public Safety's lack of response to his grievance at a time when DPS personnel were working around the clock after Saipan was hit by devastating Typhoon Soudelor in August 2015.

Assistant attorney general Tom Schweiger said Camacho's first claim against DPS is that then-DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero did not timely respond to his Aug. 17, 2015, letter.

Schweiger said Camacho cites nothing to determine what "timely" means, which means this claim is not a factual allegation but a legal conclusion.

Schweiger said a legal claim cannot be based on legal conclusions but rather sufficient facts must be alleged to support the claim.

Camacho, a 25-year veteran of the CNMI's police force, complained about not being chosen for a police position despite being the only one qualified.

In this case, Schweiger pointed out, 14 days after giving Deleon Guerrero his letter, Camacho wrote to CSC complaining about the lack of response.

Schweiger noted that, on Aug. 1, 2015, Soudelor devastated Saipan; then-president Obama declared the island a disaster area.

Schweiger said the entire island was without power and water and DPS personnel were working around the clock to assist in the recovery. He said DPS personnel had many other duties, as a result of Soudelor, which took priority.

Schweiger said DPS' Oct. 23, 2015, response to Camacho's grievance was timely given the extreme circumstances under which they were operating at the time.

He said the second issue regarding DPS that Camacho raises is that the job announcement was listed three times.

"There is nothing in the law [that] prohibits this," Schweiger said.

ger pointed out.

The third issue regarding DPS that Camacho raises is that one of the "non-DPS officers on the interview panel...assisted the other applicant with his application for the position."

Schweiger said Camacho has failed to allege any facts, which would make DPS liable for the actions of this third party.

He said in fact if Camacho has any legal claim, on this basis, it would be against the individual.

Finally, Schweiger said, Camacho has failed to allege facts to show that he has standing to bring this administrative claim.

Schweiger said the rest of Camacho's other claims have to do with actions taken by CSC.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-089**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 07, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY, CAPITOL HILL AREA, SAIPAN CNMI,
A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 23, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-090**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 7, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"INTENSIVE-LEVEL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF 50 HECTARES OF
PUBLIC LAND LOCATED IN THE CAROLINAS HEIGHTS REGION, TINIAN, CNMI
A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 23, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-091**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 7, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"UNDERWATER REMOTE SENSING SURVEY OF LAULAU BAY
A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 23, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-004-17**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2017 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

**"PROCUREMENT OF ONE (1) UNIT VEHICLE:
2017 ACCESS CAB P/U TRUCK, 4-CYLINDER 4WHEEL
DRIVE, AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, AIR-CONDITIONING,
POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, ALL OTHER FEATURES
AS PER FACTORY SPECIFICATIONS AND TO INCLUDE
INSTALLATION OF A NEW BED-FITTED
ALUMINUM TOOL BOX".**

DELIVERY OF VEHICLE TO SAIPAN AIRPORT SHALL BE 60 DAYS OR SOONER AFTER BID AWARD. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROCUREMENT SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA EMAIL AT cpa.receptionist@pticom.com PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 17, 2017.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED:

"PROCUREMENT OF ONE UNIT 2017 ACCESS CAB P/U TRUCK". BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND \$40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-092**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 7, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"HISTORIC PRESERVATION LEGISLATURE EVALUATION A PROJECT
UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"**

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEOLOGIES AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 23, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-NIMO-087**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 9, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT
SYSTEMS AND INSTALLATION FOR THE NORTHERN ISLANDS MAYOR'S OFFICE"**

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED ON FEBRUARY 23, 2017 AT 10:00A.M. AT THE NIMO OFFICE, ASCENSION CT. BUILDING NO. 1345. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE MADE TO MR. JEROME K. ALDAN, MAYOR OF NIMO NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 27, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JEROME K. ALDAN
MAYOR, NORTHERN ISLANDS
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-NIMO-087**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 9, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT
SYSTEMS AND INSTALLATION FOR THE NORTHERN ISLANDS MAYOR'S OFFICE"**

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ JEROME K. ALDAN
MAYOR, NORTHERN ISLANDS
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION**

PO. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhgov.net>

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC) BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THROUGH ITS VICE CHAIRMAN, IS HEREBY GIVING NOTICE THAT A REGULAR BOARD MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2017 - 10:00 A.M. AT THE NMHC CONFERENCE ROOM, GARAPAN, SAIPAN. THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO SUBMIT WRITTEN OR ORAL COMMENTS REGARDING THE AGENDA BELOW. INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE MEETING AND NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT NMHC IN ADVANCE.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a. Call to Order
- b. Swearing-in
- c. Roll Call
- d. Election of Officers
- e. Adoption of Agenda
- f. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. Special Board Meeting – July 18, 2016 / Resumed Special Board Meeting – August 31, 2016
 - ii. Regular Board Meeting – October 6, 2016

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Divisional Updates

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Garapan Annex Status Update
- b. RD Settlement Update
- c. Rota Land Exchange
- d. Personnel Matters
- e. Procurement Policy
- f. Travel Policy
- g. \$1 Million Funding for Loans to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota
- h. Loan Delinquency Update
- i. Previous Board Approved Motions

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Section 8 Voucher Admin Plan Amendment
- b. LHTC Program
 - i. Zen Homes, LLC Request for Additional Credits
 - ii. Art Ridge Village Homes Request to Reduce Unit Number and Unit Mix
- c. BankPacific Loan Modification
- d. 2017-2018 QAP
- e. Standing Committee
- f. Ad Hoc Committee – Financial Committee, Personnel Committee, Housing Committee
- g. Lease-to-Own Assistance Request
- h. FY 2016 Audit Status
- i. Management Reporting Policy
- j. Board Meeting Minutes Policy
- k. Dissemination of Outside Communication
- l. Merit Salary Increases

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/S/ IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Vice Chairman of the Board



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2015 Toyota Prius C-3
Gray, Auto, STK#U16-099R
WAS \$16,999
NOW \$15,999*



2015 Toyota Prius C-3
Orange, Auto, STK#U16-096R
WAS \$17,099
NOW \$16,499*



2015 Prius C
White, 4-cyl, 1.5 Liter, Auto, CVT, STK#U17-006R
WAS \$16,999
NOW \$16,499*



2015 Prius C Hatchback,
Orange, 4-cyl, 1.5 liter, Auto, STK#U17-005R
WAS \$16,999
NOW \$16,699*



2015 Prius HV, Hatchback
Gray, 4-Cyl, Auto, FWD, STK#R16-019F
WAS \$17,999
NOW \$17,999*



2014 KIA Sportage EX Sport
Green, 4-Doors, FWD, Auto, STK#U16-146T
WAS \$18,499
NOW \$18,499*



2015 Corolla LE, 4-Door Sedan
White, 4-cyl, 1.8 liter, Auto, CTV, STK#U17-009R
WAS \$20,599
NOW \$20,599*



2016 Corolla LE Sedan
Gray, 4-cyl, 1.8 liter, Auto, STK#U17-012R
WAS \$21,199
NOW \$21,199*



2014 Prius V,
Third Generation Hybrid
Auto, 4-Cyl, 4-Door, Red, STK#R16-015F
WAS \$21,499
NOW \$21,499*



2016 Corolla LE, 4-Door Sedan
Gray, 4-cyl, 1.8 liter, Auto, CTV, STK#U17-013R
WAS \$21,699
NOW \$21,699*



2010 4Runner SR5
Black, 2WD, 4-Cyl, STK#U16-091T
WAS \$24,399
NOW \$22,999*



2012 4Runner SR5
Gray, 2WD, 6-Cyl, STK#U16-094T
WAS \$26,599
NOW \$23,999*



2015 Mazda CX-5 Grand Touring SUV
4-cyl, 2.5 Liter, Auto, 6-Spd, STK#U17-015T
WAS \$24,599
NOW \$24,599*



2010 4Runner SR5
Silver, 4-Cyl, Auto, 2WD, STK#U16-144T
WAS \$23,299
NOW \$23,299*



2015 Camry LE Sedan, 4-Doors
Yellow, 4-cyl, 2.5 Liter, Auto, 6-Spd., STK#U17-007R
WAS \$23,599
NOW \$23,599*



2015 Camry LE Sedan
Silver, 4-cyl, 2.5 liter, Auto, STK#U17-008R
WAS \$23,599
NOW \$23,599*



2016 Prius HV, 4-Door Sedan, SK
Green, Low Mileage of 558, STK#T16-04764
WAS \$27,699
NOW \$23,999*



2015 Mazda CX-5,
Grand Touring Sport
Auto, 4-Cyl, AWD, Red, STK#U16-151T
WAS \$24,599
NOW \$24,599*



2015 Toyota Tacoma AC
4x4, 4-Cyl, Gray, STK#R16-011F
WAS \$26,199
NOW \$26,199*



2016 Mazda CX-5,
Grand Touring Sport
Blue, 4-Cyl, Auto, AWD, STK#U17-001T
WAS \$28,999
NOW \$28,999*



2015 Highlander LE SUV
Dark Green, 4-cyl, 2.7 Liter, Auto, 6-Spd., STK#U17-010R
WAS \$28,999
NOW \$28,999*



2014 4Runner SR5, 4x4
White, V-6, Mileage 19,875, STK#U16-153T
WAS \$33,199
NOW \$33,199*



2016 4Runner, SR5, 4x4, 3rd Row
Auto, Red, STK#U16-136R
WAS \$35,599
NOW \$34,999*

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Saturday Hours 8 am to 5 pm



Torres: Murkowski bill has effect on CNMI

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wants to study first the Senate bill that Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) re-introduced in the 115th U.S. Congress to prevent unilateral executive decision in establishing national monuments.

If passed, Murkowski's Improved National Monument Designation Process Act would require states to approve the designation of national monuments in federal lands and waters. It aims to have congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions in its use and establish requirements for the declaration of marine national monuments.

The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,

'Local, small businesses will benefit from CW1 cap increase'

It may be a temporary solution but House Resolution 339, if it becomes law, would still help ease the CNMI's ongoing labor problems. This comes as the administration—along with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and the business sector—tries to lobby support in Washington, D.C. for changes that would assist the Commonwealth's economic recovery.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the CNMI panel to the 902 talks—together with their federal counterparts—had suggested in their final report to increase the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Nonimmigrant Visa program's numerical cap and extend it for another 10 years while giving long-time

chaired by Murkowski.

The bill, if it becomes law, wants to limit the president's power in creating national monuments through presidential proclamations. The Antiquities Act of 1906, signed by former President Theodore Roosevelt, gives the U.S. commander-in-chief the power to establish national monuments in federal lands to protect significant cultural, natural, or scientific features.

The law has been used a hundred times since its passage.

Murkowski, in a statement, said that ex-President Barack Obama signed more proclamations in establishing national monuments compared to the previous 18 presidents

combined.

"President Obama has locked up more acres through monument designations than the previous 18 presidents combined. His unilateral withdrawals have routinely come with complete disregard for local concerns and opposition."

"Threatening energy, mining, fishing, ranching, recreation, and other reasonable use of public lands and waters. At this point, we have no choice but to reform the Antiquities Act to ensure that the people being impacted by these designations are heard and respected."

A total of 25 senators led by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky had supported Murkowski's bill. Sens. John

McCain (Arizona), Ted Cruz (Texas), Mike Crapo (Idaho), Orrin Hatch (Utah), Jim Inhofe (Oklahoma), Pat Roberts (Kansas), Marco Rubio (Florida), and Jeff Sessions (Alabama) are the other ranking Republicans who backed the bill.

Torres said the bill would have an effect in the CNMI, especially after former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell last year signed the patent conveying three geographical miles of the Northern Islands of Asuncion, Maug, and Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas) back to the CNMI government.

Torres said there are some provisions in the Antiquities Act that he doesn't agree with. "Again, we go back to when

it was H-2B visas, not the scarce CW permits," said Sablan.

"My legislation will give those local businesses—and the Commonwealth Health Center, which is in the same predicament—an opportunity to keep their legacy employees, until they can be replaced with U.S. [eligible] workers," he added.

HR 339 would also increase the education fee for each approved CW permit of a foreign worker from \$150 to \$200, with the funds going to training U.S. qualified workers. Construction workers getting their permits extended if it was first issued on Oct. 1, 2015, is another proposed amendment.

"Our local businesses were squeezed out when the CW1 cap was reached last October by a rush of foreign construction workers, who should use unlim-

ited H-2B visas, not the scarce CW permits," said Sablan.

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Sablan said increasing the numerical cap is important to the business sector, local and small businesses, which continue to employ foreign guest workers, especially to those who could no longer apply to renew the permits of their laborers.

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Rota school ends Catholic Schools Week celebration

Students, educators, and parents at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja joined thousands of students across the country to culminate National Catholic Schools Week in their own special way.

The school marked Catholic Schools Week with the theme "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service" from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4.

According to the school, the theme encompasses several

McFun Run to take place on Feb. 18

The Rotary Club of Saipan and McDonald's Saipan will be hosting the Annual McFun Run on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017, along Saipan's beautiful Beach Road pathway.

This event for 5K and 10K runs along the pathway from the Carolinian *utt* in Garapan to the 5K turnaround by the National Office Supply or the 10K turnaround at the Oleai Beach Bar and Grill and back to the Carolinian *utt*.

Registration begins at 5am at the Carolinian *utt*. Start time is 6:15am.

Registration forms are available or can be picked up at all Saipan McDonald's branches, MegaByte, or NMPSI office.

You can register before the event at the McDonald's main office across the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in Dandan.

concepts at the heart of Catholic education. Our school is not only a community in itself but also a part of the larger community of home, church, diocese, village/city, and nation. Faith, knowledge and service are integral components of a Catholic education, which has as its core aim to build up the body of Christ. And in every community of faith, knowledge, and service there is always someone in the community sent by God to help.

"The annual Catholic Schools Week celebration is a time of great joy where we thank God for sending great and special people to assist Catholic schools," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig. "We need to recognize these people who in any way shaped Catholic schools."

In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja honored:

- The faithful people of the community of Luta and abroad;
- Our elderly/*man'amko*

dan. No registration form and payment will be accepted anywhere except at the McDonald's main office in Dandan.

Businesses can also register by paying \$150 for each team of 10 participants from their respective companies to promote a healthy lifestyle and team spirit within the company.

A \$300 cash prize will be given to the school that gets the first 100 registered participants.

The first 300 paid registrants who show up first at the event will receive a McFun Run T-shirt.

The first 100 paid registrants who show up first at the event will also receive a pair of Ronald McDonald socks!

Raffle prizes to be given out after the race. (PR)

and the staff of the Rota Man'amko Center;

- Monsignor Louis Antonelli;

- The alumni: Samantha King Sablan, Deanna Manglona Ogo, Dominic Maratita, Pauline M. Manglona, and Dina Songao;

- Catholic Schools Week guest speakers: Rev. Fr. Isidro Ogunoro; Herman Atalig, Rosita A. Hocog, and Chanelle A. Manglona.

- Matea King Sablan Scholarship Foundation (Tanya King).

- Tita A. Hocog

- Sen. Paul A. Manglona,

Sen. Teresita Santos, Rep. Glenn Maratita, Councilor Ivan Mereb, and former municipal council members George Hocog and Roman Calvo.

- Businesses, benefactors, and donors.

- Parents, families, and friends of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja.

In addition, awards were presented to educators, staff, and volunteers. They are:

- Mary Rose S. Lucero (3rd – 5th Grade Class adviser): 2017 Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja Teacher of the Year.

- Lea Del Rosario Maratita (Preschool adviser): Support Staff of the Year

- Edward C. Maratita, Jr.

(6th – 8th Grade class adviser): Leadership Award

- Florinda M. Chavez (1st – 2nd Grade class adviser): Religious Award

- Mary Rose S. Lucero: Religious Award

- Monette M. Ladao: Appreciation and Recognition Award

- Rorilyn T. Cantil: Service Award

- Abel Barcina: Grandparent Award

"Congratulations to all who made our Catholic Schools Week successful at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja," said Atalig.

"We ask all our parish communities to pray daily for the continued mission of our Catholic schools. Pray for teachers and staff members who daily witness and proclaim the Gospel to our students. These men and women truly are, in the words of St. John Paul II, "great gifts to the church," said board member Edward C. Maratita Jr.

"Pray also for our predecessors (the late Sr. Benedict, Sr. Bridget, Sr. Ascension, and Sr. Zosima), priests, and lay people who established the firm foundation for Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja in our diocese. What a tremendous treasure they have given us to continue providing Catholic education," added Maratita. (ESFDB)



CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (1)

High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Cargo and Freight Agent (1)

Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than February 17, 2017.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Commonwealth Zoning Board (Zoning Office)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Zoning Office is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions. These are full-time positions on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

1. Zoning Officer (1)
2. Zoning Enforcement Techs (2)

Duties and Responsibilities:

(Officer) Process permit applications including reviewing applications for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations; Conduct field surveys and inspections for compliance with the Zoning Law and to collect land use information; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the zoning program and permit requirements; Gather information to update the GIS; Maintain detailed records of all actions, using paper and electronic media; Update permit information on the database; Perform other duties as assigned.

(Enforcement) Conduct field surveys; Collect land use information; Prepare and serve notices of violation and other compliance documents; Write follow-up enforcement notices; Maintain enforcement database and files; Prepare enforcement reports; Perform other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

(Officer) Graduation from an accredited two-year college or university with an AA Degree. A minimum of 3 years in the following professional experience may substitute for the AA Degree:

(Enforcement) A minimum of 2 years background in the following:

Any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health & safety, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, regulatory and permitting enforcement or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends; Ability to speak in Chamorro or Carolinian a plus. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salaries are \$25,000 (**enforcement**) and \$28,000 (permitting). Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to the Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be picked up from the Zoning Office or the Office of Personnel Management. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Please send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogunoro@zoning.gov.mp or to the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 4:30pm.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Trump's ill-considered and badly planned immigration order

President Donald Trump's rushed and ill-considered entry ban on travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries hinges on numerous fallacies and illogical leaps that probably will prompt an embarrassing reversal. The question is how much damage he will inflict on U.S. international relations before the courts or Congress intervene to stop him.

Trump bases his 90-day ban on new arrivals from the seven countries—Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen—on the need to make America safe. In reality, he is endangering national security by sending a message to Muslim allies that America can no longer be regarded as an ally, protector and friend.

Military translators, intelligence informants and workers in U.S. facilities have far less reason to put their lives on the line if they believe America will turn its back on them, simply because they're fighting for U.S. interests in the wrong country. If their collaboration leads to death threats, too bad. They're banned. Iraq's parliament has threatened to impose a visa ban on Americans in retaliation.

Trump's executive order instructs immigration authorities "to prioritize refugee claims made by individuals on the basis of religious-based persecution, provided that the religion of the individual is a minority religion in the individual's country of nationality."

As much as Trump protests that his order is not aimed specifically at Muslims, he has made clear in previous statements that Muslims are his specific targets. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani told Fox News: "When he first announced it, he said 'Muslim ban.' He called me up, he said, 'Put a commission together, show me the right way to do it legally.'"

Trump stated in a Christian Broadcasting Network interview that his order was specifically to give Christians a priority over Muslims.

Any such religious preference would present solid grounds for judicial reversal based on the First Amendment's establishment clause. Besides, in Iraq and Iran, Sunni Muslims are the largest persecuted minority, which would make them eligible for priority entry under Trump's order. In Yemen, Shiite Muslims are the largest persecuted minority. Will they receive consideration equal to that of Christians?

If the issue is about nations that harbor terrorists, why hasn't Trump chosen countries that have clearly traceable links to terrorists who attacked the United States? Osama bin Laden and 15 of the 19 hijackers in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks were from Saudi Arabia, which isn't on the list. In November, The Washington Post reported that Trump had eight companies registered in Saudi Arabia with apparent hotel interests there.

Trump's motives already are suspect. If the president really cares about American values—and his sagging credibility—he will slow down, think carefully and seek counsel from people who actually know what they're doing.

(c)2017 St. Louis Post-Dispatch

THE SUPREME COURT NOMINEE IS AN EXTREMIST!!

HE MUST BE STOPPED...HE'S DANGEROUS!!

WHO IS IT AGAIN?

LET ME LOOK IT UP...

OMALA INCORPORATED HERIBERTO KOTERADA

Woman who fabricated story about Emmett Till owes him much more

I guess you heard: A woman whose claims about a 14-year-old boy whistling at her has changed her story—decades after it cost him his life in mid-century Mississippi.

More pointedly, Carolyn Bryant Donham admitted she fabricated critical details that spurred her husband and his half-brother to abduct and savagely murder Emmett Till on Aug. 28, 1955.

Here's the rub: Not only did black America know she was lying at the time, no one to this day has been held accountable.

The short trial orchestrated back then was a farce, ending with both defendants being acquitted after five days—and barely an hour of frivolous deliberation.

The all-white, all-male jury wouldn't have taken that long to free the killers, one juror boasted after the trial, "if we hadn't stopped to drink pop." His posture was in line with the defense attorney's stern admonishment to the jury beforehand that their ancestors "will turn over in their graves" if they convicted two white men.

Jim Crow justice heaped insult on injury.

So if Donham wants to come clean, set the record straight and bring some semblance of closure to this historical travesty, she needs to do it the right way.

In a nearly decade-old interview with Timothy Tyson, the author of a new book, "The Blood of Emmett Till," Donham confesses that Till didn't make the verbal or physical advances she alleged.

"That part's not true," she told Tyson, expressing misgivings for Till's fate. "Nothing that boy did could ever justify what happened to him."

Sorry, lady, but you owe Emmett Till more than that.

Before she dies, Donham, now 82, should come out of hiding and publicly apologize to Till's ancestors and contemporaries for the tragedy she triggered.

If she's serious about atoning for her sin, she also should dedicate her forthcoming memoirs—set to be released long after she dies—and any profits they might earn to Till's survivors. Or direct it to the Mamie Till Mobley Memorial Foundation, which was founded to honor the memory of Till and the legacy of his late mother, who died in 2003.

Till's monstrous death created two conflicting outcomes: It mortified generations of black people caught up in a violent and unjust system of white oppression built on slave-code expedience.

But it also ossified the nascent civil rights movement, hardening resistance to the iniquities that facilitated America's separate and unequal social structure.

Still, vestiges remain and the pain lingers.

By JAMES RAGLAND

The Dallas Morning News

James Ragland is a columnist for The Dallas Morning News. Readers may email him at jragland@dallasnews.com.



Long before that talk—the one where black parents informed their kids how to submit to police—boys of my generation got another lecture. It had to do with what we said to and around white people, especially those of the opposite sex.

What happened to Till was deeply embedded in the conscience and consciousness of black America, especially those in the Deep South. The old adage, "boys will be boys," didn't apply to us.

It couldn't. We had to be mindful of an anachronistic social code that haunted our parents and grandparents and left a psychological scar on generations to come. We learned, in details unbefitting young ears, what "black justice" in America meant.

Black lives didn't matter then, either.

But Till's death was not in vain, thanks to a calculated decision his mother made to show the world the evil handiwork afflicted on her son.

Mobley insisted on an open-casket funeral. She wanted pictures to be taken of her son's tortured face and mutilated body. That took a level of courage and clarity that few folks could ever muster.

"I said I want the world to see this because, there is no way I could tell this story and give them the visual picture of what my son looked like," Mobley told filmmaker Keith Beauchamp in a 2000 interview.

I first saw a reprint of those photos in a Jet magazine while sitting in a barber's chair in the mid-'70s as a teen about Till's age.

I wept for Till. I wept for his mom.

Now, I weep for a country in which something like this could ever happen.

If there's any redemptive value to Donham's about-face, it is this: By pulling the covers off of America's shameful past, she's reminding us how this racial divide in America came to be—especially why so many black Americans remain fearfully distrustful of our criminal justice system.

Emmett Till's blood is on Donham's hands, but his legacy, freshly liberated from a longstanding lie, is in ours. We owe it to him to stand up against the pernicious threats to justice that remain.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Not all of them were ‘the good old days’

I found myself feeling deeply nostalgic for a scent my mother used to wear: Jean Nate. Its signature hip, plastic yellow bottle with its circular black top represented the ultimate in sophistication.

I was explaining this sentimental memory to a friend who interrupted me by saying, “They still sell the stuff, Gina. You could find it at Walgreens. You can get it at Target. You could even buy it at Sears, you know, while you’re there picking up a self-cleaning oven. They didn’t stop making it just because you stopped thinking about it.”

She practically wrecked my nostalgia. After all, when we stop using things or wanting them, don’t they just disappear? My husband experienced this awhile back when he, in a small wistful voice, said, “Wouldn’t it be terrific to have a Hostess Cupcake? You know, with the little swirls on top? But they stopped making those.”

“No they didn’t,” I said. “They were on sale last week. I just haven’t bought them in 15 years because the last thing you and I need to be eating are little concentrated grenades of sugar and fat.”

“I think you’re wrong,” he said. He clutched his grief firmly, and only after seeing that Hostess Cupcakes have their own lively website was he persuaded that they still exist. He was more than persuaded, to be honest. He was ecstatic. It

was like finding out that there really is an Easter Bunny.

Some things, of course, are genuinely gone. Does anybody still use a ditto machine? My students, most of whom were born between 1995 and 1999, don’t have any idea what it is. My pal Mary said her children thought a “spirit master” was some kind of New Age guru, and a “spirit duplicator” was a character of out of “Ghostbusters.” They’ve never breathed in the tingling smell of a fresh ditto, never seen a mimeograph, rarely if ever used a rotary dial phone (or heard a dial tone) and have never actually “hung up” a phone.

Two particularly smart students were having lunch in my office the other day. Dylan and Julia dismissed the idea that they’d never used fold-out paper maps, whiteout correction fluid, pencil sharpeners or blackboard erasers. Yes, they had.

What hadn’t they experienced and what couldn’t they imagine? Using a shared and public phone. “You called a location, not a person?” “You didn’t know who was calling or who that person wanted to speak to?” “Was it like in a movie when somebody calls a bar and the bartender has to yell out a name to see if the guy’s there?” Yes, yes and yes, I explained. There were no answering machines, either. You relied on somebody to write a note telling you that you received a call.

“We never asked, ‘Where are you?’ at the beginning of a conversation,” I told them. “Because we knew that people were usually speaking on a home phone attached by a short cord to a wall in their house. People sat down when we spoke.”

“That’s wild,” said Dylan, his eyes wide. “Wow.”

Know what else my students never heard of? The rabbit test. I explained that women and girls used to go to the doctor

to find out if they were pregnant, and that their urine was then injected into a bunny, which was dissected to determine the results. They were horrified. “They actually killed a rabbit?” Yes, I said again. Yes.

I explained further that unmarried women would often buy fake-gold bands to put on their fingers and see doctors away from their hometowns to avoid the stigma of a pregnancy test. Since the mid-1970s, women could pee on a stick at home to see whether they’re pregnant; to young people, everything about the rabbit test now seems barbaric.

If you are under 50, you might not know that birth control was illegal, even for married people, until a 1965 Supreme Court ruling in a Connecticut case overturned the law. Only some of them knew why people in the Women’s March on Washington held signs with images of coat hangers on them, emblazoned with the words “Never Again.”

A great deal of our past doesn’t deserve nostalgia; we need to be cautious when romanticizing the good old days. Some of them were terrible.



By GINA BARRECA

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut and the author of *If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse?* and eight other books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

Frederick Douglass did do ‘an amazing job’

By TAYLOR BATTEN
The Charlotte Observer



Taylor Batten is the editorial page editor for the Charlotte Observer. Readers may email him at tbatten@charlotteobserver.com.

President Donald Trump said Frederick Douglass “is an example of somebody who’s done an amazing job that is being recognized more and more.”

Douglass, who died 122 years ago, escaped slavery and was a leading abolitionist. We don’t know that he’s being recognized more and more, but we do agree with Trump that he’s done—or did—an amazing job.

Now seems like a good time to share some of Frederick Douglass’s thoughts. They are all important, and some are especially relevant in the age of Trump. Americans might even find some gems in here upon which they can all agree:

■ “The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.”

■ “Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.”

■ “Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”

■ “Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground.”

■ “I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than to be false, and to incur my own abhorrence.”

■ “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”

■ “No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fastened about his own neck.”

■ “At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed.”

Journalists showing steadfast determination to call out lies

During the New England Patriots run to the 2015 Super Bowl, head coach Bill Belichick famously and curtly defined the team’s mission in three simple words, words that still apply as the team prepares to play in yet another Super Bowl this Sunday:

“Do your job.”

Words to live by for a championship team, and words to live by for a team even more essential to our country’s success: American journalists.

Journalists across America do their jobs every day to report the truth. In the face of a new presidential administration that has treated the Fourth Estate with open hostility, our job is essential. This call is clear to publishers and producers, editors and photographers, beat reporters and broadcasters from the public and privately held media alike—we all have a job to do. And we need do it better than ever, regardless of what the president or anyone else may think of us.

The simple fact is our industry is under attack right now. Trust, truth, facts and accountability—these are the tenets that make up the foundation of the free press, a freedom that has been envied and modeled throughout the world since our nation was founded. As others have noted before, the press is the one profession mentioned in the United States Constitution; that alone underscores the importance of our role.

Unfortunately, today and every day since the inauguration, we have seen journalists targeted for doing their jobs and serving the public trust. We must—and do—reject terms like “alternative facts,” which are antithetical to our understanding of truth, and serve only to increase our divisions and obfuscate reality. This kind of language and deception does not move us forward in any way, nor does it serve a citizenry that is smart, discerning, critical thinking and deserving of hearing the truth, regardless of what it may be.

So, the truth is under attack and we as journalists are under attack. And when being attacked, we must respond in the best way we know—by doing our jobs and staying focused on the truth.

By JERRY FRANKLIN

The Hartford Courant

Jerry Franklin is president and CEO of the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network. He wrote this for the Hartford Courant.



The good news is that news organizations aren’t wilting under the pressure. The response we have seen over the past two weeks shows a steadfast commitment to the highest standards of journalistic ethics and the presentation of facts. We remain committed each day to helping the public better understand what is going on in the world, and to do so fairly, accurately, diligently and with conviction.

In a 1963 speech, The Washington Post’s Publisher Philip Graham famously said journalists have the “inescapably impossible task of providing ... a first rough draft of history.” The challenge in those words remains today, as history can only be recorded and shared if grounded in absolute truth.

Building on Mr. Graham’s words, the message to our colleagues is this: Let us work independently and together to report the truth, to hold the powerful to account and to keep the words “journalism” and “trust” together in the same sentence.

We will do this by reporting the truth and vetting facts—real facts. By holding our elected officials—as well as others in powerful positions—accountable to those they represent and whose lives they greatly influence. And by inviting all people to participate in conversations about current affairs that will help to inform our fellow citizens.

We must not cower in the face of pressure and hostility. The truth matters. Our democracy is counting on it.

We’ll show the public exactly who we are, every day, by doing our jobs. We

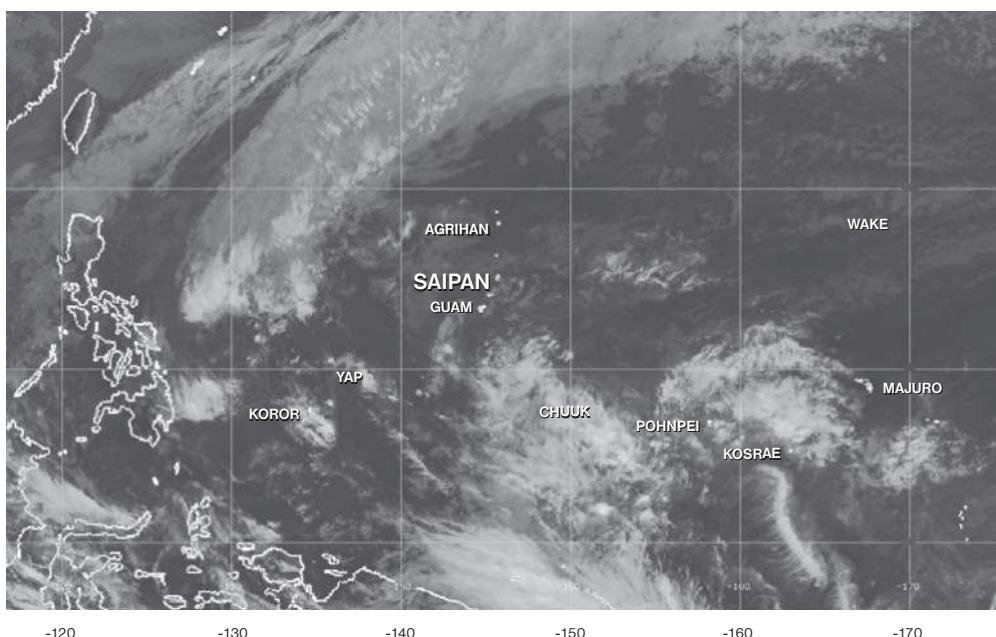
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°
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YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:40 AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretched across the Marianas this morning. It is weaker than on Sunday as showers are only isolated across the local area. Winds are also lighter being only between 15 to 20 mph. A surface trough will develop over the Marianas and produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms late tonight and Tuesday. Another shear line will approach the Marianas from the north and push down over the local area. This will cause more scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms Tuesday night and Wednesday. The shear line will move north of the local area Wednesday night but be close enough to generate a few thunderstorms.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Showers	73° / 61°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	41° / 21°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 57°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	80° / 64°
London	Cloudy	39° / 30°
Los Angeles	Showers	63° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86° / 72°
Melbourne	Sunny	93° / 75°
Miami	Sunny	81° / 67°
New York	Rain	50° / 47°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	46° / 36°
Paris	Showers	50° / 36°
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	48° / 34°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	61° / 39°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	73° / 51°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	43° / 32°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	37° / 19°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	52° / 36°
Washington, DC	Rain	66° / 57°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
5:32 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.66
10:27 AM	LOW TIDE	1.16
3:49 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.92
11:24 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.3

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Wednesday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:53 AM	2:41 PM
Wednesday	-	3:53 AM	3:39 PM
Thursday	-	4:50 AM	4:38 PM
Friday	-	5:45 AM	5:37 PM
Saturday	-	6:36 AM	6:34 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2017

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN				
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	9:50am	3:20pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW308	3:05am	6:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:45pm	2:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:30pm	9:05pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN				
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				

MVA: Easy to get to Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

It's easier than ever this year to get to the 13th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, slated for Feb. 18-19, 2017, in the home of the legendary

Chamorro chief Taga.

Organizers and supporters are offering extra flights and ferry transportation between Saipan and Tinian, as well

as a free shuttle between the airport, seaport, and festival grounds at Tachogna Beach.

"With the closure of the Tinian Dynasty, it's imperative to make it more convenient for people to get to and from the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, whether it's a day trip or an overnight visit," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Tinian is a welcoming, clean, and historically rich destination, and we want to make it as easy as we can for visitors to enjoy this unique event hosted by Tinian."

Star Marianas Air's reservations team at 433-9996 or 9998 to find out if a particular time of the day is expected to be busier than others. For more information visit www.star-marianas-air.com.

Star Marianas Air, in cooperation with the MVA and Tinian Mayor's Office, will extend its normal hours of operation during the festival. On Feb. 17 and Feb. 18, scheduled flights will be extended by three hours, with the last flights leaving Tinian at 9:30pm. To supplement its regularly scheduled flights that leave Saipan hourly at the top of the hour (starting from 7am) and Tinian hourly at the bottom of the hour (starting from 7:30am), Star Marianas will be operating additional

aircraft to provide a Saipan-Tinian shuttle service.

Advanced bookings are accepted, but travelers can also show up at the airport on Saipan or Tinian and expect to be transported in a timely fashion.

To minimize airport waiting times, interested travelers are encouraged to contact Star Marianas Air's reservations team at 433-9996 or 9998 to find out if a particular time of the day is expected to be busier than others. For more information visit www.star-marianas-air.com.

Ferry round trip cost is \$20 (ages 3-11), \$35 (ages 12 and older), and free for children ages 0-2. For one way, the cost is \$10 (ages 3-11), \$18 (age 12 and older), and free for children ages 0-2. Advance ticket purchase is required and will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Passengers are allowed up to 70 lbs of cargo, including bicycles (a \$10 fee will be charged for additional cargo). Ticket purchases may be made at the MVA Office on Tinian and Saipan. Cash payments only will be accepted.

In addition, the MVA will provide free shuttle transportation between Tinian International Airport, Port of Tinian, and the festival grounds, only. Due to limited resources, shuttle transport to other venues will not be available. Car rental is also available.

Individuals arriving via the ferry will be shuttled directly to the festival grounds, and those departing via the ferry can catch the shuttle leaving the festival beginning 1 1/2 hours before ferry departure time. Individuals arriving or departing at Tinian Interna-

tional Airport can call for a shuttle at 433-3216 or visit the MVA information booth at the festival grounds for assistance.

Toilets, showers, and limited power are available for campers. However, campfires on the beach are prohibited, according to the MVA's Tinian office. Available hotels on island include Fleming Hotel, Lion House, Lorilyn's, and Street Motel. Some hotels offer airport shuttle, as well.

Activities will include the 65K Pika Bike Race on Feb. 18 at 6am, cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dance. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab) races, join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball and dragon boat races), or join the *donni sali* eating competition, itself.

Festival times will be from 2pm to 11pm on Feb. 18 and from 11am to 11pm on Feb. 19.

Tinian is also accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam. For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 433-9365 or e-mail Vida Borja at vborka@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

CNMI teens invited to raise awareness of dating violence through slam poetry

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is inviting CNMI teens to help raise awareness on teen dating violence and/or promote healthy relationships through slam poetry at the annual Teen Poetry Slams on Rota and Saipan.

February 2017 was recently recognized as Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month in the CNMI. This is part of national and local efforts to raise awareness about abuse in teen dating relationships, promote healthy and safe relationships, and help promote resources available for victims and survivors.

The Rota Teen Poetry Slam will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on the campus of Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School. Teens interested in competing must submit their poems and contact information before or by 4:30pm on Monday, Feb. 13, 2017, for review by emailing rotacoalition@gmail.com.

For more information on the Teen Poetry Slam on Rota, contact the NMCADS office on Rota at 532-3878 or a team representative at 783-2827, or email rotacoalition@gmail.com.

The Saipan Teen Poetry Slam will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017, from 6pm to 9pm at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret. Teens interested in competing must submit their poems and contact information before or by 5pm on Friday, Feb. 17, 2017, for review by emailing info@endviolencenmi.org.

Those who meet poem submission requirements will also be invited to a Slam Poetry

Performance Workshop on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017, from 8:30am to 3pm at PIC's Annex Room. Also, those who wish to participate need permission from a parent or guardian, and their school, if applicable. Note that attending this workshop is not mandatory.

The Saipan Teen Poetry Slam and workshop are also open to teens On Tinian.

For more information on the Teen Poetry Slam or workshop on Saipan, contact the NMCADS office on Saipan at 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org.

Poem submissions must include the contestant's full name, age, name of school, and contact number(s). Poems may also be sent within the body of the email or as an attached MS Word document or PDF. Note that poems must not contain real names or profanity.

Judging criteria for poems and performances include quality of writing, entertainment value of the poem, connection to audience, and relevance to Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month. There will also be two competing divisions: the 13-15-year-old division and the 16-19-year-old division.

For additional information on these events or on Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month, contact NMCADS at 234-3878 or email angelyn@endviolencenmi.org. Also, for the latest news and updates, follow NMCADS on Facebook, Instagram (@nmcadsv) and Twitter (@EndViolenceNMI). (PR)



EXCHANGE PROGRAM ADVOCATES

Representatives of Sendai Ikuen Gakuen High School recently visited the Northern Marianas College to meet with Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, seated center, dean of Student Services Leo Pangelinan, standing first from left, and International Student Services counselor Christine Inos, standing second from left, to talk about a possible student and cultural exchange program between the high school and NMC. During their visit at NMC, they also toured the college campus, which was led by NMC student Keisuke Yoshida, standing first from right. Sendai Ikuen Gakuen High School located in Miyagino, and Tagajo Japan was founded in 1905 and has about 3,000 students.

NEWS BRIEFS

Bodybuilding federation to host fundraiser

The Northern Marianas Bodybuilding & Physique Federation will be holding a "Party in the Park" on Feb. 25, 2017, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Garapan Central Park (Roundhouse) to raise funds for our bodybuilders to compete in local and international competitions. The cost is \$20 per person.

The federation is preparing for the 3rd Annual Marianas Muscle competition to be held on March 25, 2017, and in July it will be holding the CNMI bodybuilding cham-

pionships. These events will be officially sanctioned by NMBPF and will determine those competitors who will be eligible to represent the CNMI in international competitions.

For tickets, contact Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807 or email jeanneesq@yahoo.com or Karen Davis, at 789-9214. (PR)

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) on Feb. 7-8 from noon to 10pm and Feb. 9 from 10am to noon. The U.S. military will

also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Feb. 10 from 9am to 1pm.

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the date and times indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile

radius on all quadrants. (PR)

MMAC team captains' meeting today

The Marianas March Against Cancer planning committee's Subcommittee on Recruitment would like to remind team captains that today, Feb. 7, 2017, will be their first meeting for the upcoming annual event to be held on May 12, 2017, at Hopwood Middle School in Chalan Piao. The meeting will be held at the Commonwealth Cancer Association office in Gualo Rai at 6pm. For more information, contact the CCA at (670)

682-0050 or email at immacateams@gmail.com. (PR)

Calling Tinian homestead applicants

Current Tinian homestead applicants interested in finding out the status of their homestead applications can contact Lisa Aguon, DPL Tinian Office, at (670) 433-9245 to book an appointment on Feb. 2 or 3, 2017. (PR)

Become a Reading Ranger at AMP

The American Memorial Park is inviting first to third graders on Saipan to participate in this

year's first Reading Ranger selection. Over three days, Feb. 7, 8, and 9, from 3pm to 4:30pm, young readers will be guided through *The Unbreakable Code* by Sara Hoagland Hunter by a park ranger.

To register your child, call lead ranger Brooke Nevitt or Jovanna Mafnas at 234-7207 or 2020. There are a limited number of spaces and participation will be determined by the date of registration. For more information on events at American Memorial Park, contact Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or via email at: brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (NPS)

Business

N. Korean economics 101: How much is a dollar worth?

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—To get a feel for how North Korea's economy works, go buy a roll of toilet paper. Or start up a mobile phone network.

As capitalist-style markets have grown more important in North Korea, so has a market-friendly exchange rate for the much-coveted U.S. dollars, euros and Chinese yuan that lubricate the North's economy. But the official and unofficial rates are totally out of whack. And as one big investor recently found out, the difference can mean hundreds of millions of dollars in lost profits.

Dueling exchange rates are a common issue for developing countries that have an official premium rate set by the government, often for political purposes that don't reflect economic realities and are therefore often ignored in the marketplace.

The discrepancy can severely hamper foreign investment, undermine confidence in the local currency and contribute to corruption and economic instability.

But nowhere in the world is the gap bigger than North Korea, according to Steve Hanke, a professor of applied economics at the Johns Hopkins University who specializes in hyperinflation.

"The North Korean won's black market premium is the



A portrait of the late Kim Il Sung is seen on the 5,000 bill of the North Korean won, Monday, Feb. 6, 2017.

An exchange booth right next to the checkout counter posts the day's rates—not the official 108-or-so won to the dollar, but a whopping 8,000-plus.

"The official rate is a political rate," Hanke said. "It is, therefore, totally arbitrary and no one really knows how it is determined. The black-market rate is a free-market rate. The supply and demand for dollars and won on the black market calls the tune and sets the rate."

Most North Koreans don't have foreign currency to begin with and don't shop in upscale stores, so the system is fairly invisible most of the time.

On a larger scale, it has major ramifications.

highest in the world: a fantastic 6,440 percent," he said. For comparison's sake, the black market premium for the Syrian pound is "only" 144.3 percent of the official rate, he said.

What does such a system look like on the ground?

If you pick up that roll of toilet paper in a shop catering to foreigners, tourists or the relatively affluent elite in the capital, it would probably have a price tag in the 200-400

won range, or \$2-4. The prices in won are calculated according to the official exchange rate. In reality, you can't actually pay in won, at least not at that rate.

Typical Pyongyang residents, meanwhile, are more likely to do their shopping at a place like the Kwangbok Department Store, which does take won and therefore uses an entirely different pricing system. Here, a roll of toilet paper costs 1,400 won.

House GOP's corporate tax scheme has its GOP skeptics

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans face opposition to their plan to overhaul the way corporations pay federal taxes from a powerful group of lawmakers—other Republicans.

"I'm not very enthused about it," said Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, the chairman of the Finance Committee and the Senate's top tax writer.

Another skeptic is John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate.

"The question is, who is going to pay the tax?" Cornyn asked. "Is it going to be our citizens?"

Seeking to overhaul the tax code for the first time in 30 years, the House GOP plan would scrap the 35 percent tax on corporate profits, which is riddled with exemptions, deductions and credits. It would be replaced with something called a "border adjustment tax."

Under the system, American companies that produce and sell their products in the U.S. would pay a new 20 percent

tax on the profits from these sales. However, if a company exports a product, the profits from that sale would not be taxed by the U.S.

Foreign companies that import goods to the U.S. would also have to pay the tax.

The proposal could help American workers and exporters who are struggling to compete against low-wage workers in other countries. However, it could also drive up prices for imported goods, including automobiles, consumer electronics, oil—and therefore gasoline—and everyday retail items.

The proposal is championed by House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

Brady says the proposed system would boost American manufacturers and exporters, and help U.S. companies compete abroad.

"This tax has a simple but powerful principle, which is every product and service that is consumed in the United States will have an equal business tax rate of 20 percent," Brady said.

With control of the House, Senate and White House, Republicans believe they have a unique opportunity to remake the tax code to their liking.

But Republican solidarity is crucial for success. The GOP holds only a two-seat majority

Q: Although she hasn't said so directly, my new manager clearly has problems with my performance. "Ashley" contradicts me in public, disagrees with my decisions and excludes me from important conversations. Even though I'm 25 years older, she constantly tries to micromanage me.

I always received excellent evaluations from my previous bosses, so this treatment is hard to take. Ashley's disrespect even shows in her body language. Recently, while I was leading a meeting, she intentionally placed her chair so that she was facing the participants with her back towards me. How can I work with someone like this?

A: Since you can't undo Ashley's promotion or change her personality, you need to focus on what you can control. Because any job is easier when you get along with the boss, developing a good relationship with her will be in your best interest. So, it's time to think about "managing up."

Start by objectively considering how you might be contributing to this situation. If we reverse your own examples, do you debate Ashley's decisions, fail to consult her on key issues, have public disagreements or demonstrate your disregard for her in any way?

If so, your 25-year age gap might be part of the problem. Being supervised by someone much younger tends to feel uncomfortable, so older

'Manage up' to younger boss

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.

employees often respond by flaunting their knowledge, resisting change or talking reverently about the past. To young managers, this can seem disrespectful.

You should also be careful about looking too hard for slights. In your meeting, for instance, Ashley may have moved her chair simply to have a better view of the participants. Or she might have been trying to share the leadership role. Turning her back was not necessarily a personal affront.

Given that you are older and presumably more mature,

perhaps you can take the initiative to reset this relationship. For example: "Ashley, I really want us to work well together, and I feel as though we may have gotten off on the wrong foot. What could I do to be more helpful to you?"

If Ashley has suggestions, make every effort to comply. And even though you would undoubtedly like to return the feedback, remember that your goal is to improve the relationship, not improve Ashley.

Q: I'm planning to retire in about seven months and I'm not sure when or how to tell my manager. In this day of emails and texts, what is the "correct" method of communicating my retirement? And how much notice should I give?

A: The "how" is simple. Once you're firmly committed to a date, meet with your boss and explain your retirement decision. The two of you can then discuss any aspects of the transition that may affect your colleagues or your work.

The "when" requires a little more thought. Although you should give your manager time to plan, reversing a retirement decision could be difficult once a date is set. And while a long notice period might relieve work pressures, you may also have less influence and your colleagues may treat you differently. So before making a premature announcement, carefully evaluate your own needs.

Nation

White House predicts courts will reinstate travel ban

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rebuffed in its bid for a quick reversal, the White House said Sunday it expected the courts to reaffirm President Donald Trump's executive power and reinstate a ban on refugees and travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States.

The case promised to extend into Monday at least, when fresh legal filings were due, and observers had no doubt the Supreme Court ultimately will have a say.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a brief order overnight, denied the administration's request to set aside a Seattle judge's ruling that put a temporary hold on the ban nationwide.

The lawsuit by Washington state and Minnesota said Trump's order harmed residents and effectively mandated discrimination. Their lawyers had until 2:59 a.m. EST Monday to submit briefs opposing the government's request. The Justice Department



then had a 6 p.m. EST deadline to respond.

"We'll accomplish the stay

Travelers arrive in US to hugs and tears after ban is lifted

BOSTON (AP)—Travelers from the seven predominantly Muslim countries targeted by President Donald Trump enjoyed tearful reunions with loved ones in the U.S. on Sunday after a federal judge swept the ban aside.

Airlines around the world allowed people to board flights as usual to the United States. One lawyer waiting at New York's Kennedy Airport said visa and green-card holders from Iraq and Iran were encountering no problems as they arrived.

"It's business as usual," said Camille Mackler, of the New York Immigration Coalition.

Fariba Tajrostami, a 32-year-old painter from Iran, came through the gate at Kennedy with a huge smile and tears in her eyes as her brothers greeted her with joyful hugs.

"I'm very happy. I haven't seen my brothers for nine years," she said.

Tajrostami had tried to fly to the U.S. from Turkey over a week ago but was turned away.

"I was crying and was so disappointed," she said. "Everything I had in mind, what I was going to do, I was so disappointed about everything. I thought it was all over."

Tajrostami said she hopes to study art in the U.S. and plans to join her husband in Dallas soon. He moved from Iran six

months ago, has a green card and is working at a car dealership.

Similar scenes played out across the U.S. two days after a federal judge in Seattle suspended the president's travel ban and just hours after a federal appeals court denied the Trump administration's request to set aside the ruling.

The U.S. canceled the visas of up to 60,000 foreigners in the week after the ban on travel from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Yemen took effect, according to the State Department.

Trump also suspended nearly all refugee admissions for 120 days and barred Syrian refugees indefinitely.

The order triggered protests and a multitude of legal challenges around the country and blocked numerous college students, researchers and others from entering the U.S.

Trump, who said the goal was to keep terrorists from slipping into the country, lashed out against U.S. District Judge James Robart for putting the ban on hold. He referred to Robart as a "so-called judge" and called the ruling "ridiculous."

On Sunday, the president tweeted: "Just cannot believe a judge would put our country in such peril. If something happens blame him and court system. People pouring in. Bad!"

and will win the case on the merits," Vice President Mike Pence said.

Members of Trump's Republican Party scolded him for Twitter attacks on U.S. District Court Judge James Robart, appointed by President George W. Bush, and accused Trump of stepping over the line that separates the executive from the judiciary. To Trump, Robart is a "so-called judge" whose "ridiculous" ruling "will be overturned."

Trump renewed his Twitter attacks against Robart on Sunday. "Just cannot believe a judge would put our country in such peril. If something happens blame him and court system. People pouring in. Bad!"

He followed with another tweet saying he had instructed the Homeland Security

Department to check people coming into the country but that "the courts are making the job very difficult!"

Vice President Mike Pence defended Trump, saying "the president can criticize anybody he wants." Pence added that he believes the American people "find it very refreshing that they not only understand this president's mind, but they understand how he feels about things."

At issue is the legality of a presidential action undertaken in the name of national security. Whatever the outcome and however the case drags on, a president who was used to getting his way in private business is finding weeks in to the jobs, obstacles to quickly fulfilling one of his chief campaign pledges.

"The president is not a dic-

tator," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. "He is the chief executive of our country. And there is a tension between the branches of government."

The government had told the appeals court that the president alone has the power to decide who can enter or stay in the United States, an assertion that appeared to invoke the wider battle to come over illegal immigration.

Congress "vests complete discretion" in the president to impose conditions on entry of foreigners to the United States, and that power is "largely immune from judicial control," according to the court filing.

"We don't appoint judges to our district courts to conduct foreign policy or to make decisions about the national security," Pence said.

Feinstein, the top Democrat

Trump Cabinet pick paid by controversial Iranian exile group

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—An official

in U.S. President Donald Trump's Cabinet and at least one of his advisers gave paid speeches to organizations linked to an Iranian exile group that killed Americans before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, ran donation scams and saw its members set themselves on fire over the arrest of their leader.

Elaine Chao, confirmed this week as Trump's transportation secretary, received \$50,000 in 2015 for a five-minute speech to the political wing of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, previously called a "cult-like" terrorist group by

the State Department. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani also was paid an unknown sum to talk to the group, known as the MEK.

More than two dozen former U.S. officials, both Republican and Democratic, have spoken before the MEK, including former House Speaker and Trump adviser Newt Gingrich. Some have publicly acknowledged being paid, but others have not.

While nothing would have prohibited the paid speeches, they raise questions about what influence the exiles may have in the new administration.

Already, a group of former

U.S. officials, including Giuliani, wrote a letter to Trump last month encouraging him to "establish a dialogue" with the MEK's political arm. With Trump's ban on Iranians entering the U.S., his administration's call this week to put Iran "on notice" and the imposition of new sanctions on Friday, the exile group may find his administration more welcoming than any before.

A potential alliance with the MEK would link the U.S. to a group with a controversial history that has gone against American interests in the past by supporting Iran's Islamic Revolution and the U.S. Embassy takeover in Tehran.

Iranian-born bioengineer researcher Nima Enayati holds up his boarding pass at the Milan's Malpensa International airport in Busto Arsizio, Italy, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017.

on the Senate Judiciary Committee, predicted the appeals court would not have the last word. "I have no doubt that it will go to the Supreme Court, and probably some judgments will be made whether this president has exceeded his authority or not," she said.

In his ruling, Robart said it was not the court's job to "create policy or judge the wisdom of any particular policy promoted by the other two branches," but to make sure that an action taken by the government "comports with our country's laws."

Trump's order applied to Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen—Muslim-majority countries that the administration said raise terrorism concerns. The order had caused unending confusion for many foreigners trying to reach the United States, prompted protests across the United States and led to multiple court challenges.

Trump's criticism of Robart echoed campaign comments against a federal judge of Mexican heritage who was overseeing a lawsuit against Trump University. Justice Department lawyers could be called upon to answer for Trump's words as the travel ban case makes its way through the courts.

"We all get disappointed from time to time at the outcome in courts on things that we care about," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. "But I think it is best to avoid criticizing judges individually."

After fleeing Iran, the MEK joined forces with Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. It later exposed details of the clandestine nuclear program run by Iran, which views the MEK as its sworn enemy.

"The Mujahedeen have backed the winning horse. They are going to have some at least entree into the administration," said Ervand Abrahamian, a professor at the City University of New York who wrote a book on the MEK. "I think it weakens the U.S. because the more they have access to the administration, the more people in Iran are going to be scared of anything the U.S. does."

Asia

Philippines' Duterte warns of offensives if rebels attack

MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte warned Sunday that the military is ready to respond with airstrikes and new offensives if communist rebels launch attacks after both sides lifted separate cease-fires and he announced he was scrapping peace talks with the guerrillas.

Duterte, speaking at a news conference, called the rebels “terrorists,” as months of steady progress in talks brokered by Norway rapidly turned hostile after New People’s Army rebels killed six soldiers and kidnapped two others in fresh violence that enraged the president.

“It seems to me that these terrorists want another 50 years of war, of killing of Filipinos,” Duterte told reporters after attending the wake of three of the slain soldiers in southern Cagayan de Oro city.

“I don’t want a bloody thing, but if they choose to do it, fine,” the tough-talking president said. “With my lifting of the cease-fire, they can begin their attacks and we are prepared and I will use the assets. We have so many planes now, we have jets, I will drop all (the bombs).”

Duterte lifted the government’s 6-month-old cease-fire with the rebels Friday and ordered troops to prepare for new fighting after the guerrillas abandoned their own truce two days earlier and killed six soldiers in fresh violence. He angrily said some of the slain soldiers were killed like pigs and raked with gunfire.

He said Saturday that he was scrapping the talks with



Communist rebel negotiator Fidel Agcaoili, left, and Chief Philippine negotiator Silvestre Bello III shake hands after signing a joint statement on what has been achieved in the third round of talks, in Rome, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017. AP

the rebels and would order government negotiators not to participate in negotiations for a joint cease-fire accord scheduled this month in Norway, adding that “peace with the communists might not come in this generation.”

The rebels have yet to react to Duterte’s moves.

Despite his tough talk, Duterte asked thousands of guerrillas to abandon the nearly half a century of bloody rebellion in the countryside with an offer of land reform and housing.

“I’m offering you peace,” he said. “You should just come down and I will look for money to place you in settlements and I will proceed with the land reform.”

Duterte said that several rebel leaders who were temporarily freed to join the peace talks in Europe should immediately return to the Philippines and go back to prison, warning that he would cancel their passports and order them to be arrested. The rebel leaders, he said, could also apply for asylum in Europe and opt to die far from their homeland.

Despite his tough stance, Duterte said Saturday that he may reconsider his decision if there was a compelling reason, but he did not elaborate. His adviser on the peace talks, Jesus Dureza, suggested Sunday that the president’s decision may still change.

“At the moment, he has

clearly spoken on the directions we all in government should take,” Dureza said in a statement. “As I always say, the road to just and lasting peace is not easy to traverse. There are humps and bumps, and curves and detours along the way. What is important is that we all stay the course.”

The setback in the talks is the latest reality check for Duterte, whose crackdown on illegal drugs, which has killed thousands of drug suspects since he took office in June, has also hit a dilemma.

Duterte prohibited the 170,000-strong national police and the National Bureau of Investigation, another key law enforcement agency, from enforcing his campaign amid

ing testimony from scores of people who suffered abuse at the hands of clergy. But the full extent of the problem was never clear until Monday, when the commission released the statistics it has gathered.

Bangladesh sticks to plan to relocate Rohingya Muslims

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh is sticking to its plan to relocate Rohingya Muslims, who fled Myanmar in the face of persecution, from overcrowded and unhealthy camps in a southern coastal district to a low-lying island still not ready for human habitation. Foreign Minister A.H. Mahmood Ali briefed about 60 diplomats and representatives of various agencies and sought their

help to relocate the Rohingya to Thengar Char in eastern Bangladesh, a government statement said late Sunday. More than 300,000 Rohingya Muslims have been living in Bangladesh for decades while about 66,000 more have crossed the border since October amid renewed persecution and targeted attacks by soldiers and majority Buddhists in Myanmar’s Rakhine state. said that more than 50 others have been injured in different parts of the country, updating an earlier toll. He said more than 150 homes have been destroyed by the avalanches and that 50 others were heavily damaged. The avalanches, which came after heavy snowfall, have also killed an estimated 550 animals and destroyed more than 1,000 hectares (2,500 acres) of farmland, Mohammadi said. Mohammad Aseem, governor of the hard-hit northern province of Parwan, said 16 people were killed and eight others injured in avalanches in two districts. He said a team had been dispatched to affected areas but that many roads were blocked by snow. He and other officials said the death toll may rise as reports come in from remote areas.

Avalanches in Afghanistan kill at least 54

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Avalanches in Afghanistan have killed at least 54 people in the last three days, officials said Sunday. Omer Mohammadi, spokesman for the Afghan state minister for disaster management and humanitarian affairs,

Australia’s leader says Trump isn’t chasing a refugee deal

CANBERRA, Australia

(AP)—Australia’s prime minister on Sunday ruled out any deal to get the United States to honor an agreement to resettle hundreds of Muslim refugees that President Donald Trump has described as “dumb.”

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull also dismissed a Nine Network television network journalist’s suggestion that he should be offended that White House spokesman Sean Spicer has repeatedly called him “Trumbull” in press briefings. Turnbull said, “The important thing is results.”

Spicer says Trump has agreed to honor an Obama administration deal to resettle up to 1,250 asylum seekers rejected by Australia. Trump made the agreement during a conversation with Turnbull last weekend, but has since tweeted, “I will study this dumb deal!”

Turnbull said Trump had asked for nothing in return for resettling the mostly Muslim refugees from Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Australia pays the impoverished Pacific countries of Nauru and Papua New Guinea to keep the refugees in camps.

“Absolutely not,” Turnbull said. “It’s a deal obviously that President Trump has said he wouldn’t have entered into, but he has committed to honor it.”

Turnbull said there would be no link between the refugee resettlement and any future U.S. request for military help in the Middle East or the South China Sea.

Australia is one of the larg-

est contributors to the U.S.-led military campaign in Iraq and Syria. Australia has resisted U.S. pressure to conduct freedom of navigation exercises close to artificial islands created by China in the contested South China Sea.

“We assess all requests for military assistance on their merits and there is no linkage at all between an arrangement relating to refugee resettlement and any other matters,” Turnbull said.

The Obama administration agreed to resettle Australia’s refugees after Australia agreed in September last year to accept Costa Rican refugees fleeing drug wars.

Australian media have described the disagreement over the refugee deal as the lowest point in the bilateral alliance since 1973, when Prime Minister Gough Whitlam clashed with President Richard Nixon over a series of bombings during the Vietnam War.

Turnbull has welcomed U.S. support since media reports emerged of his disagreement with Trump during their first conversation.

“I don’t think there has ever been more public support for Australia than there has been his week,” Turnbull said. “We have seen dozens and dozens of congressmen and senators talking about the importance of the Australian alliance and talking about what a great friend we have always been to the United States. This has been a very good week for Australia.”

World

Despite White House warning, Israel pushes settlement bill

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister is moving ahead with a contentious law that would legalize dozens of settlement outposts in the West Bank, despite claims by experts that the bill itself is illegal and a warning from the White House that settlement construction "may not be helpful."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under intense pressure from members of his coalition to bring the bill to a vote in parliament following last week's court-ordered demolition of an illegally built settlement outpost. But he risks drawing angry international condemnations, possibly even from the ostensibly friendly Trump administration, if he pushes forward.

Netanyahu's nationalist coalition is dominated by West Bank settlers and their supporters. The Jewish Home, a powerful coalition ally, has been leading the calls to vote on the outpost law this week, perhaps as soon as Monday. The Jewish Home believes that with a friendly president in office, it is time for Netanyahu to lay out a clear policy for the West Bank, including the possible annexation of parts of the occupied territory.

Netanyahu has sent mixed signals about the legislation, publicly voicing support for it while also reportedly ex-



In this Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017, file photo, heavy machinery work at a construction site in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Ariel. AP

pressing private misgivings. On Sunday, he indicated that he might once again delay the vote in a possible sign he is re-thinking his support.

Turkish police detain over 440 people in anti-IS operation

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkey's anti-terrorism police have detained over 440 people for alleged links to the Islamic State group, the state-run news agency reported Sunday.

The Anadolu Agency said 60 suspects, the vast majority of them foreigners, were taken into custody early Sunday in the capital, Ankara.

It said a total of 445 people were detained in simultaneous pre-dawn police operations that spanned several cities, including Istanbul and Gaziantep, near the border with Syria.

The largest operation was in the southeast province of Sanliurfa, where police took into custody more than 100 suspects from multiple addresses and found materials relating to Islamic State militants.

Security forces also apprehended nine suspects who were allegedly preparing an attack in the northwestern city of Izmir.

Anadolu did not give the nationalities of all those detained but there were 10 minors among the foreigners detained in Istanbul and the northwest-

Jewish Home lawmaker Shuli Moalem-Refaeli, one of the bill's sponsors, said that the West Bank is dotted with outposts that she claimed had been built over the years in "good faith" and should now be legalized.

"What has been established cannot be destroyed," she told Israel Radio.

Israel's powerful settler lobby was jolted last week by the court-ordered demolition of Amona, an outpost found to have been built on private Pal-

estinian land. Over 40 families were forced from their homes, putting pressure on the government to respond. Proponents of the new legislation are bent on passing it to prevent similar scenes from taking place.

The bill would retroactively legalize several thousand homes built illegally on private Palestinian land. The original landowners would be compensated either with money or alternative land, even if they do not agree to give up their property.

Critics have said the bill

will not pass legal muster. Netanyahu's own attorney general has said he will not defend the bill before the country's Supreme Court, and Netanyahu has reportedly expressed concerns that the legislation could strengthen a case against Israel in the International Criminal Court.

"People on the right haven't got the courage to tell the settlers the truth," Tzachi Hanegbi, a member of Netanyahu's Likud Party, said over the weekend. "It is reasonable to assume that

the bill will not pass."

Dan Meridor, a former justice minister and Likud member, said the bill is problematic because it would affect Palestinians living on occupied territory that is not part of Israel and who do not have the right to vote.

"The idea is that we are taking land from someone, accidentally or not, and then are getting rid of him without him getting in a word, without him participating in the legislation," he said. "This is something destructive that must be stopped."

Charity turns old blankets into winter coats for refugees

THESSALONIKI, GREECE (AP)—It's been a miserable winter in Greece, especially for the many thousands of refugees staying in tents in old factories and warehouses. At a tiny workshop in the northern city of Thessaloniki, they're trying to make a little bit of a difference.

Volunteers are working long hours to try to keep the refugees warm, with bursts of noise from sewing machines revealing their mission: To turn discarded blankets into jackets, overcoats and other winter wearables.

There's an almost endless supply: The blankets—mostly army issue, gray with red stitching—came from the sprawling refugee and migrant encampment at Idomeni on the Macedonian border that is

now closed.

As many as 14,000 people lived in tents at the site last year after European countries closed borders to refugees streaming into the continent. Greek police cleared the camp last May, leaving hundreds of tents and thousands of blankets behind. A Greek-German charity called Naomi collected them by the vanload to be washed and reused.

Project organizer Elke Wollschlaeger helps make and even model the coats, which have the label "Remember Idomeni" stitched inside.

"We're trying to keep it in people's minds what happened in Idomeni last year, and what Europe did to refugees and the Greek people, just leaving the borders closed and thousands of people stranded," she said.

Greece's government says more than 60,000 refugees and migrants remain stuck in the country following the border closures. It has struggled to shelter camp dwellers from freezing overnight temperatures. Authorities on the island of Lesbos are investigating three recent deaths at a refugee camp there, possibly caused by fumes from makeshift heaters.

For Syrian refugee Hasan Al Kodsy, helping out at the coat workshop in Thessaloniki was a natural fit. The 30-year-old used to run a family textile business in Damascus that employed about 100 workers. His journey to Europe stopped at Idomeni but he's still hoping to join his wife and 2-year-old daughter in Munich, Germany, through the European Union's slow-

moving relocation scheme.

"I saw women (in Idomeni) shivering in blankets and that was not a nice thing to see," he said. "So we started making clothes with the blankets."

The charity doesn't distribute the jackets directly but passes them on to other aid groups in return for donations, using any money raised for skills-training programs for refugees and projects to take them out of camps and place them in apartments. It also sells the coats to walk-ins, like resident Katerina Tsolakidou.

"We really liked the idea of re-using the blankets from Idomeni," she said after picking up a coat. "It gives the refugees something to do. So instead of spending the money somewhere else, it'll be put to good use here."

Focus

By AMY TAXIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — Iranian-American supermarket supervisor Alan Tahmasebi voted for Donald Trump last year, hoping a businessman would be more trustworthy than a politician.

The 35-year-old now sorely regrets it, seeing the havoc wreaked upon his fellow countrymen—and his family—since the new president issued a temporary travel ban on refugees and citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries, including his former home.

Tahmasebi and his wife have spent more than \$7,000 on green card applications for their parents. Now, their parents are in limbo overseas as the Irvine couple awaits the birth of their second child.

"It was a land of opportunity but now, I don't think so," he said. "They wish to come here and visit my new baby. They never worked with the army, with the government (in Iran)—I have no idea what is going on."

The ban has rattled Americans with ties to the listed countries, and its effects are perhaps most widespread among the country's thriving Iranian American community. The U.S. has nearly 370,000 Iranian immigrants, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, far more than the other countries targeted by the order.

While Tehran and Washington have a lengthy history of friction, personal ties between residents of the two countries have held strong. Many Iranian Americans travel back to visit family or bring aging parents to join them in the U.S.

Since Trump imposed the travel ban, tension between the two governments has continued to rise.

On Friday, Iran barred U.S. wrestlers from an important international tournament. The same day, the Trump administration imposed sanctions on 13 people and a dozen companies in response to Iran's recent ballistic missile test, increasing pressure on Tehran without directly undercutting a nuclear deal with the country.

Later Friday, a federal judge temporarily blocked the travel ban following a lawsuit by Washington state and Minnesota that said Trump's order is causing significant harm to residents and effectively mandates discrimination.

A federal appeals court on Sunday denied a Justice De-

United States after the Islamic Revolution.

"I felt like it could have been any one of my relatives this could have been happening to," said Stepanian, adding she is outraged by the ban.

Trump's order placed a temporary halt on visitors and refugees from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. But citizens of these countries who are legal permanent residents in the United States initially were held for long hours at airports, and those who have immigrant visas also were denied entry.

Ali Vayeghan was stopped at the Los Angeles airport even though he had an immigrant visa. U.S. authorities put him on a plane back to Iran, but lawyers intervened to get him returned to the United States so he could reunite with his wife and son and get his green card.

His niece, 32-year-old artist Marjan Vayeghan, said her friends have been nervously asking each other since the ban whether they have green cards or U.S. citizenship.

"There is this sense of, 'Are you a citizen, or do we need to Anne Frank you in our homes?' This is a situation where everybody is afraid," she said. "We don't know who among us is safe."

Now, many Iranians—even those who are legal permanent residents or American citizens—are rethinking their plans.

Mehran Sahraeian, a 51-year-old pharmacy technician, said he's been pleading with his mother not to visit his sister in Canada lest she face problems returning.

Eli Majd, a 37-year-old mother of two, said her husband is visiting family in Iran and she worries about him being able to return—even though he is an American. Sam Yebri, a 35-year-old lawyer, said his family probably won't vacation abroad for now because although he is a U.S. citizen, his passport lists his birthplace as Tehran.

"I have no problem with the security apparatus. There are concerns just about being an Iranian American at this time, I think, until cooler heads prevail," Yebri said.

At the Irvine supermarket, 45-year-old Iranian American Mary Far said she hasn't returned to Iran in two decades. She was hoping to go this summer to visit her brother and sister, whom she hasn't seen since she left the country. But with the travel ban, she isn't sure she'll make the trip.

"It affects a lot of people," she said. Then she burst into tears.



Iranian Americans feel stuck, confused, afraid of travel ban

In this photo provided by Eric Martinez, Nazanin Zinouri, front left, and her colleagues from Modjoul, a startup technology firm in Clemson, S.C., pose for a photo after Zinouri arrived at Logan International Airport in Boston on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017.

Trump's refugee and travel policy

Do you favor or oppose the following actions?

■ Approve ■ Disapprove

Reducing the number of refugees the U.S. accepts to 50,000

47%

29%

90-day ban on people entering the U.S. from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen

48%

31%

Stop admitting Syrian refugees entirely

38%

36%

Stop admitting all refugees for 4 months

40%

37%

Source: YouGov
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Tahmasebi said customers relish persimmon and other produce from Iran, but if relations between the countries sour further the store may have to bring in Pakistani or Chinese goods instead.

The vast majority of the country's Iranians and Iranian Americans live in California. The sizable community in Los Angeles—which includes members of diverse religious groups, including Muslims, Christians, Jews and Baha'i—has led some to adopt the nickname "Tehrangels."

Jeannine Stepanian, a 32-year-old lawyer who helped travelers detained at Los Angeles International Airport last weekend, said she comes from a family of refugees. First, her Armenian grandparents fled to Iran. Then, her parents, who are Christian and were born in Iran, sought safe haven in the

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

By BARRY SPYKER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

With its low, wide stance and vertically stacked LED lights up front, Cadillac's gorgeous new flagship sedan, the CT6, is guaranteed to turn heads. And it will impress many with its well-composed ride, luxurious creature comforts and high-tech safety.

And, despite the fact it is 204 inches long and offers executive-style seating in the rear, this is no big-boat Cadillac of yesteryear. In fact, the CT6, built on GM's new Omega platform, is a relative lightweight at 3,657 pounds. That's light enough to even accommodate a turbocharged 4-cylinder engine that can top 30 mpg on the highway.

More popular, though, will be the 3.6-liter V-6 that produces 335 horsepower and a new twin-turbo 3.0-liter that is good for 404 horsepower and 400 pound-feet of torque. All engines are mated to smooth-shifting eight-speed automatic transmissions.

The 3.0-liter, called the 3.0 TT, gets up the on-ramp with great pull and reaches 60 mph in 5.2 seconds, according to road tests. EPA-estimated fuel economy with the 3.0 is 21 mpg combined (18 city, 26 highway), with some credit going to a truly seamless stop-start function and a cylinder deactivation system that shuts down two of them when they're not needed.

A full-size luxury car is not built for hard corners and adept handling, but you can push the CT6 with an Active Chassis Package (\$3,300 option) that employs adaptive suspension to help the big fella maintain good composure and a confident ride. It also includes all-wheel-drive and active rear steering, too — the rear wheels turn slightly with the front wheels for a tighter turning radius and more stable lane changes at highway speeds.

A well-controlled ride is what engineers had in mind when they pushed the wheel wells to the four corners. And there was a bonus: greater interior space, especially in the rear. Riding back there is ultra-comfortable with massage feature and power seat adjustments. And getting in and out through rear doors is easy on the head (no bumps) and legs (they fit). Add a rear entertainment system and your passengers may not want to get where you're taking them.

Up front, leather-trimmed seats are supportive and have up to 16-way controls for driv-

2017 Cadillac CT6:

New flagship upholds the tradition

TNS
The Cadillac CT6 Plug-In Hybrid goes on sale in North America in spring of 2017. The CT6 Plug-In offers over 400 miles of combine driving range, a full EV range of an estimated 30 miles and a zero to 60 mph time of 5.2 seconds.



er and passenger. An upgraded gauge cluster has crisp, colorful graphics and can be personalized to the driver.

If that's not impressive enough, the music is gonna get you: A Bose Panaray system (\$3,700) sends tunes through

34 speakers for a superb sound. As for Cadillac's sometimes temperamental CUE infotainment system, there's

good news: It appears to be quicker and more intuitive this year and now there's a touch pad on the center console.

UNDER THE HOOD: Lots of risks with driving through deep water

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: All the rain we've had lately has reminded of something I've been wondering about for a long time. On the news I've seen many cars driving through flooded areas. I've always thought that cold water hitting a hot engine block could crack or warp the block. I've also thought that the water could short out many of the car's electrical components. Are my concerns justified? Is there a rule of thumb as to how deep you can safely drive your car without damaging it?

—Hiroshi

A: I also wonder how some of those vehicles will fare later. Driving very slowly through perhaps 4 inches of water is the limit I would subject my car to, and with our weather this month, I did so twice, as there was no other way home. My main concerns at this depth are ther-

mally shocking a hot catalytic converter, possibly fracturing its fragile honeycomb core, and possible damage to brake rotors, should they be at an elevated temperature.

Water deeper than this or a wave generated by another vehicle can splash upward toward transmission and differential vents, a split CV joint boot, a low-slung alternator or starter, or an air filter pickup tube. Gritty water entering a lubricated mechanism will certainly accelerate wear.

I'm not certain if some water entering the alternator will create a short circuit, but it certainly isn't a good thing to try. Water in a non-operating starter isn't a big deal other than possible grit left behind. A wave of water up into the air box and filter could cause severe engine damage if it gets past baffles and the throttle and enters the engine. The ingested liquid isn't compressible, so really bad things happen when the pistons try to squeeze the

air-water-fuel mix.

I don't think damage to the engine block is highly likely as the hotter parts of most engines are typically up high, with the exception of Porsche, Subaru and Toyota BRZ horizontally opposed engines. Most other auto parts, including electrical components and connections, are pretty well sealed, making damage possible but not that likely.

The bottom line is damage is possible, and unless it's an urgent situation to get through the water, it's best not to do it. And if it's salt water, you might as well just throw the vehicle away afterwards!

Q: I've noticed the outer edges of my front tires are wearing prematurely. The car doesn't pull, the steering wheel is straight and the tires are full. What could cause this?

—Michelle E.

A: You mentioned two symptoms of a wheel alignment problem, but there can

be two more that are less noticeable. Also, good job on keeping the tires properly inflated!

Camber is the inward or outward vertical tilt of the tires/wheels, as viewed from either front or rear. Straight up and down seems like an obvious attribute, but many vehicles are set up with slightly positive or negative camber by design to help with turning geometry.

If excessively positive (tire leans outward at the top), this can accelerate outer edge wear. Vehicles that are driven aggressively on winding roads often benefit from camber being adjusted (if possible) to the negative end of the specification range, and frequent tire rotation. Improper toe (tires are non-parallel as viewed from above or below), can scrub rubber away more visibly on the tire edges than the center. Assuming you're rotating the tires regularly, an alignment check is recommended.

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Cadillac CT6

MSRP: \$67,570

■ As tested: \$81,840 (with Driver Assist, Active Chassis and Comfort packages, plus Bose Panaray sound via 34 speakers)

■ What's all the excitement about? CT6 takes the helm as Caddy's flagship luxury sedan and it's loaded with luxury, options and engine choices

■ Powertrain: As tested, 3.0-liter, 404-horsepower twin-turbo mated to 8-speed transmission

■ How's the performance? Ultra-quiet, well-composed highway ride; Active Chassis boosts handling

■ What about fuel economy? 21 mpg combined (18 city, 26 highway)

Trunk space isn't enormous at 15.3 cubic feet but it is long and has a hands-free power lid.

CT6 is loaded with safety electronics but the one to show friends is the rear-mirror that can also stream video of what's behind you. Some will find the eye adjustment too much, while others may like the view without heads in the way.

Most CT6s include forward collision warning with mitigation and low-speed braking. An optional Driver Assist package (\$4,380) scans the road ahead for pedestrians and sends alerts and automatically applies the brakes. And a Night Vision system uses thermal technology to people or large animals ahead in the dark.

There is nothing base about the base version: It's loaded with everything you'd expect from a luxury car, including leather seats with 8-way power, dual-zone climate and big touchscreen. The Luxury trim adds automatic parking system and 360-degree parking camera. And Premium Luxury adds vision and comfort features that are optional on lower trims.

For pure performance, those German guys (i.e., BMW 5-Series and Audi A6) are tough to beat. But for comfort and elegance, plus a more attractive sticker if you control yourself and skip a couple of options, the CT6 is an alluring alternative.

Life & Style

NEW YORK (AP) — Lady Gaga dropped from the top of Houston's NRG Stadium to open her half-time show and dropped the mic at the end, offering a program that delivered high-energy hits and an inclusive theme.

With the nation on edge politically, the NFL had little taste for a show that would ruffle feathers, as Beyoncé did in some circles last year with the Black Power messaging of "Formation." Gaga plainly listened.

She was patriotic from the start, opening with snippets of "God Bless America" and "This Land is Your Land" with red and blue lights twinkling above her, before guide wires delivered her to the stage below. Her hit "Born This Way" became a gay rights anthem but in the context of Sunday's show fit into the idea of accepting differences, a thread through much of the game's commercial messaging.

President Donald Trump's name didn't come up. Gaga's most notable ad-lib? Saying hi to mom and dad.

Once onstage, she commanded a large troupe of dancers and musicians, props that breathed fire and audience members swinging lights



Lady Gaga delivers a show big on flash and inclusiveness

in synchronization—the usual excess that has become a Super Bowl cliche.

Yet Gaga commanded the show herself, unlike many predecessors who brought in guest stars to bolster their act. An expected appearance by Tony Bennett, a frequent duet partner, didn't take place. He

was relegated to a brief role in a commercial.

With that pressure, Gaga acquitted herself well. Hits like "Poker Face" and "Just Dance" were frothy and fun.

Her best performance came in her least-known song: "Million Reasons," where she sat at the piano and explored a new style that has advanced beyond the dance pop of her

youth.

The finale "Bad Romance" was a crowd pleaser. Gaga, who had spent much of the evening in a metallic space suit, emerged in her third outfit

of the performance, a midriff baring costume topped off by football-like shoulder pads. She threw down the microphone and jumped off a platform to disappear at the end.

With McCarthy playing Spicer, 'SNL' cranks up Trump satire

NEW YORK (AP) — Melissa McCarthy lampooned White House press secretary Sean Spicer in a "Saturday Night Live" sketch where she taunted reporters as "losers," fired a water gun at the press corps and even used the lectern to ram a Wall Street Journal journalist.

"SNL" opened with Alec Baldwin reprising his President Donald Trump and phoning foreign leaders with chief strategist Stephen Bannon by his side. Bannon, with hood and scythe, was portrayed as the grim reaper. He nodded affirmatively after the successive calls to countries like Australia and Germany dissolved into Baldwin vowing, "Prepare to go to war."

But it was McCarthy's mid-show sketch impersonating a pugnacious Spicer that sparked the bigger response in the NBC show's second episode since the inauguration. McCarthy's Spicer insisted that "no one was sad" at Trump's supreme court nominee un-

veiling. "Those are the facts forever," she said, before accidentally giving her email password. Off to the side, she kept a CNN reporter, chastised as "fake news," jailed in a cage.

"I want to begin tonight by apologizing on behalf of you to me for how you have treated me these last two weeks," McCarthy said in opening the mock press briefing. "And that apology is not accepted."

Taylor Swift's pre-Super Bowl concert broke some news: She announced it may be her only concert of this year; she performed for the smallest number of fans in some time—9,000 people is intimate for this pop star—and she sang her newest single live for the first time.

She also made some references to football during the 90-minute show, telling the crowd about her early country-turned-pop hit, "You Belong With Me," with lyrics about high school cheerleaders, bleachers and boys.

"I felt like it might be appropriate," she said.

Swift rocked the night at Houston's Club Nomadic—starting late Saturday and

ending early Sunday morning—wearing a sheer, short Versace dress and fresh bangs.

The 27-year-old mostly performed songs from her Grammy-winning 2014 album "1989" and 2012's "Red," including pop smashes like "Shake It Off," "Blank Space," "Bad Blood," "Style," "We Are Never Getting Back Together," "22" and "I Knew You Were Trouble."

"It's good to be in Houston, Texas tonight," she yelled.

She worked the stage from the left to right, and strutted up the middle platform to sing



closely to her feverish fans at the annual DIRECTV NOW Super Saturday Night—where past performers include Justin Timberlake and Rihanna.

"I swear you don't want it," Swift said after fans begged for the towel she used to wipe the sweat from her forehead.

Swift also debuted the live performance of "I Don't Want to Live Forever," her Top 5 duet with former boyfriend Calvin Harris (Rihanna's vocals are on the original). Swift also sang "Better Man," a recent No.1 country hit she wrote for

Grammy-winning group Little Big Town.

loudly, in hopes Zayn would appear. "He's definitely not (here)," she assured them.

But she asked the audience to sing along, as she stripped the song to acoustic form, strumming her guitar.

She also slowed things down when performing songs she wrote for others—saying it was one of her biggest accomplishments of the last year. She sang a soft version of "This Is What You Came For," the EDM hit she wrote with former boyfriend Calvin Harris (Rihanna's vocals are on the original). Swift also sang "Better Man," a recent No.1 country hit she wrote for

Grammy-winning group Little Big Town.

pose" came in third with \$10.8 million in its second weekend. Audiences have largely shrugged off the outcry over a leaked video from the film's production of a frightened German shepherd being urged into churning water.

1. "Split," \$14.6 million (\$14.6 million international).
2. "Rings," \$13 million (\$15.2 million international).
3. "A Dog's Purpose," \$10.8 million.
4. "Hidden Figures," \$10.1 million.
5. "La La Land," \$7.5 million.
6. "Resident Evil: The Final Chapter," \$4.5 million.
7. "Sing," \$4.1 million.
8. "Lion," \$4 million.
9. "The Space Between Us," \$3.8 million.
10. "xXx: The Return of Xander Cage," \$3.7 million (\$12.4 million international).

Shyamalan's 'Split' leads box office for third weekend

NEW YORK (AP) — M. Night Shyamalan's multiple-personality thriller "Split" led the box office for a third-straight week, an unusual streak for a low-budget horror film.

According to studio estimates Sunday, "Split" came out on top again with \$14.6 million in North American ticket sales, bringing the Universal Pictures release's three-week haul to \$98.7 million.

The run for the Universal Pictures release has come in an especially slow period at mul-

tiplexes. Hollywood traditionally skips significant new releases on Super Bowl weekend due to the game's enormous television audience.

Surely hurt by the continued strength of "Split," Paramount's horror option, "Rings," came in second with an estimated \$13 million. The sequel was an attempted revival of the dormant franchise begun with 2002's "The Ring" and followed up with 2005's "The Ring Two."

That release, though, opened

with \$35.1 million. Like "Independence Day Resurgence," "Bad Santa 2" and many more, "Rings" served as yet another questionable decision to recharge a franchise long out of theaters.

It cost a relatively minimal \$25 million to make and pulled in \$15.2 million internationally over the weekend. But it won't come close to the \$249.3 million the first installment made globally, or the \$161.5 million "The Ring Two" made.

The weekend's other debut, "The Space Between Us,"

Britain to mark Queen Elizabeth II's record 65-year reign

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II is poised for another historic milestone, an unprecedented 65 years on the throne.

But Buckingham Palace says Britain's longest-serving monarch plans to spend Monday's ceremonies far from the spotlight in somber contemplation of her late father.

Official commemorations of Elizabeth's Sapphire Jubilee are expected to feature ceremonial cannon fusillades at a central London park and at the riverside Tower of London as well as a procession of military horses pulling World War I-era artillery pieces.

But the 90-year-old mon-

arch is staying 110 miles (175 kilometers) to the north at her Sandringham House estate in Norfolk, where her father, George VI, died of lung cancer at age 56 on Feb. 6, 1952, after a 15-year reign.

Elizabeth surpassed Queen Victoria as Britain's longest-serving monarch in 2015.

Rodin Museum fêtes sculptor with passion-themed installation

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Auguste Rodin's sensuous piece "The Kiss" will, fittingly, form the core of an installation at Philadelphia's Rodin Museum centered on the theme of passion to mark the 100th anniversary of the French sculptor's death.

"The Kiss," in marble, portrays a couple forever locked in an amorous embrace. The new installation's marble, bronze and plaster casts feature pairings including men and women, mothers and children, a woman clutching a dead lover—and others that are playful, animalistic and one considered too shocking for even Rodin to exhibit during his lifetime. He died in November 1917.

"He explores the idea of a couple ... through desire, attraction, repulsion and shame," said curator Jennifer Thompson. "This is what passion looks like at the hands of Rodin."

The installation is part of a yearlong series of celebrations looking at the groundbreaking

artist's life being held at a host of art museums large and small around the world, with the Musée Rodin in Paris at the center. The public programs and exhibitions—unified under #Rodin100—are bringing together new information about the man considered the father of modern sculpture.

Among the Philadelphia installation's 16 works is the plaster "Young Mother in the Grotto," an ode to maternal love featuring a young woman and chubby baby, and "The Minotaur," which depicts the mythological creature with a human face said to be a self-portrait, groping and leering at a woman who seems torn between desire and revulsion.

"The Damned" is a plaster cast that even Rodin thought was too racy to exhibit, with its two women in a lusty embrace, buttocks aloft.

Philadelphia's version of "The Kiss" is a copy commissioned in 1926 by theater magnate Jules Mastbaum. The mu-

seum, which opened in 1929, was a gift to the city from Mastbaum, who was introduced to Rodin's work during a 1923 trip to Paris.

Mastbaum hired two French-born architects living in Philadelphia, Paul Cret and Jacques Greber, to create the limestone museum, modeled on a 17th-century chateau Rodin preserved at his home in Meudon. Its holdings include more than 140 bronze, marble and plaster sculptures, plus drawings, prints, letters and books.

He and his architects wanted a great marble sculpture as the museum's centerpiece. They got permission from the Musée Rodin in Paris to re-create "The Kiss," and sculptor Henri Greber—Jacques Greber's father—was selected and given a full-size plaster model to work from. It's one of four copies of sculpture considered by some as his masterpiece.

"In all of these works, he's sharing with us a catalog of passion," Thompson said.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II stops to receive flowers from 3-year old Jessica Atfield, after the queen and her husband Duke of Edinburgh, attended a church service at St Peter and St Paul church in West Newton, England, Sunday Feb. 5, 2017.

AP

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Zootopia' wins at Annie Awards and looks poised for Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Zootopia" won best animated feature and took home a leading six awards at the 44th Annie Awards, setting up the Disney release as the clear favorite at the Oscars. At the Los Angeles ceremony Saturday, "Zoo-

topia" won for directing and writing. One of its leads, Jason Bateman, shared best-voice acting with Auli'Cravalho from "Moana." Along with more than \$1 billion in global box office, "Zootopia" has been the top choice in awards season, also winning a Golden Globe. The Annie winner has won the best-animated feature

Oscar in 10 of the 15 years since the Academy Awards introduced the category. Other Oscar nominees scored other awards. Studio Ghibli's "The Red Turtle" won best animated independent feature. Laika's "Kubo and the Two Strings" won for character animation, production design and editorial.

Prince Harry bests William, Kate in London royal run

LONDON (AP)—Prince William may be closer in line to the British throne, but brother Prince Harry bested him at a finish line. Harry, William and William's wife, Kate, the duchess of Cambridge, raced a 50-meter sprint against each

other Sunday at London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park as they promoted a mental health campaign called Heads Together. Cheered by track stars and amateur runners training for April's London Marathon, Harry crossed the line a stride ahead of his older brother. William and third-place Kate hugged at the fin-

ish. William, perhaps aware he would be beat by his more athletic sibling, had quipped moments before the start: "Oh, my hamstring!" One spectator, women's marathon world record-holder Paula Radcliffe, joked afterward that William should have been disqualified for straying into Kate's lane.

Husband's aggressive driving makes wife a nervous wreck

DEAR ABBY: My husband is a very aggressive driver. He tailgates, cuts people off, narrates "play by play" during driving and stresses me out. He was involved in two accidents that I am convinced were his fault, although one was blamed on the other driver. Fortunately, nobody was hurt.

Because of this I prefer to drive. The other day, he actually reached across and honked my horn while I was driving because somebody delayed a few seconds at the stoplight! We weren't in a hurry and there was no need to honk. Our children were in the car. When I complained, he told me to "just get over it." He gets so grouchy if I say anything about his driving.

We live in a relatively small town and our vehicles are very identifiable. All of the crazy road rage incidents I hear about certainly don't help. Any suggestions? I'm ready to resort to public transportation.

PREFERS TO DRIVE

DEAR PREFERS: For the safety of your family, it's time to find out what's driving your husband's anger and dangerous behavior. His driving record speaks for itself, and he should not assume any function of driving when you are at the wheel, including honking the horn "for" you.

You are entirely correct that what he did could have

sparked a road rage incident. All that would need to happen would be for you to encounter someone who is as angry as your husband for a tragedy to happen.



DEAR ABBY: I have been married for seven years, and my husband and I have had our ups and downs. He never thought he would have kids until he met me, and now we have two. After our second child, we agreed that we were done having children. I was OK with it because it seemed after each child our relationship became strained.

Recently we reached the point of deciding whether we would either separate or work harder on our marriage. We decided to stick it out. The problem is, while we were in the process of getting back together, I became pregnant again. I'm afraid to tell him because I know how stressed he gets. I'm afraid it will be too much for him, and he will cut himself off emotionally from me and the kids.

This wasn't planned. We were using protection, but getting an abortion is something I could never do. I know this child will make things more difficult, but this child is a part of me and the man I love. How do I tell my husband I am pregnant in a way that may make the news easier to take?

AT A LOSS FOR WORDS

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR AT A LOSS: You should have told your husband about this the day you thought you "might" be pregnant. You can announce the news by telling him that this baby is a symbol of your love and reconciliation, but whether he will accept this explanation is questionable. You already know the news will not be warmly received, so get it over with before your pregnancy starts to show.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

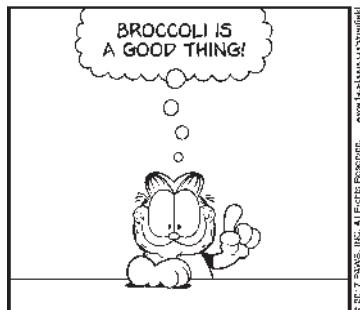
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



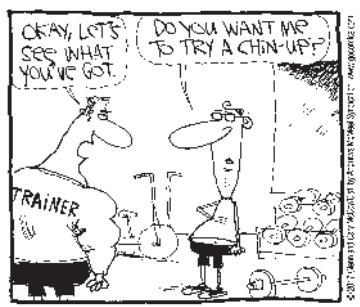
Adam@home



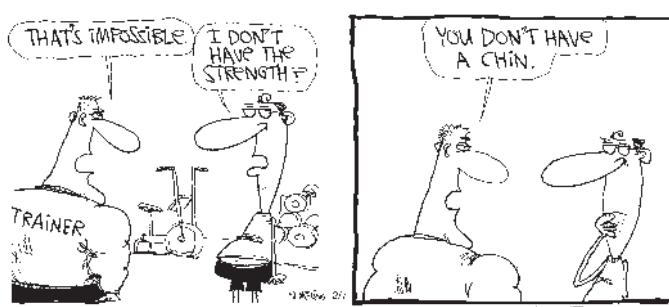
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

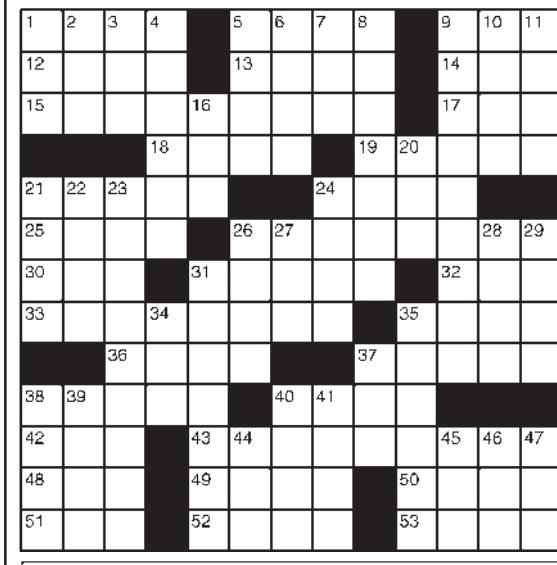
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35	Greek vowels	23	Mishaps	
1	Biting remark	36	Unit	24	Brooks' singing
5	Experts	37	Sudden winds	25	partner
9	NFL pass throwers	38	Biblical realm	26	Dweeb
12	Modem taxi alter-native	40	Sharp tooth	27	Kanga's kid
13	Historic sitcom star	42	Sweetie	28	Body sci.
14	Last (Abbr.)	43	Visits regularly	29	Hardy heroine
15	Symphony divisions	48	Curator's focus	31	He
17	Overseas agree-ment?	49	Lady of the haus	32	can hold his head high
18	Tosses in	50	Ham's dad	34	Apply cream
19	Spud	51	Existed	35	Oregon city
21	Spoiled kids	52	"Como — usted?"	37	Bearded beast
24	Ms. Moore	53	TV trophy	38	"Pygma-lion" writer
25	"I stubbed my toe!"	DOWN	22	Contrite	
26	Percus-sionist's sound	1	Vagrant	39	Circle dance
30	Fun and games		one	40	Accomplish-ment
31	Thugs			41	Water hue
32	SSW opposite			44	Train lines (Abbr.)
33	Football field			45	— de plume
				46	Highland hat
				47	Bashful

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-7



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Ashton Kutcher, 39; Chris Rock, 52; Garth Brooks, 55; James Spader, 57.

Happy Birthday: Keep an open mind and a positive attitude. Let your charm help you navigate through both the good times and the bad. Show compassion and understanding and be willing to see your faults and accept those of others. Sharing will help bring you closer to the people you love. Be mindful and offer kindness and consideration. Your numbers are 7, 14, 18, 25, 33, 38, 46.

TAURUS (March 21-April 19): Take your time if emotional situations flare up. Try to be optimistic and offer unique solutions instead of getting upset. Learn from your past mistakes and you will avoid making an unnecessary mistake. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Travel plans or visiting someone who can feed you information about current trends or changes going on in the workplace will lead you into an interesting project. Think big, but don't overdo it. Moderation will keep you out of debt. **★★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take strides that will help you bypass any negativity or deceptive rhetoric with people who may be trying to take advantage of you. Stick close to those you trust. Love and romance are featured. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotions will surface if you let what others do get to you. Avoid attempting anything that may result in minor injuries or poor health. Look

for opportunities to use your skills to get ahead instead of wasting your time arguing. **★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Aim to stabilize your life. Don't let emotional issues come between you and your goals. Take pride in what you do and live within your means. Having a plan in place and following each step with precision and detail will pay off. **★★★**

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take your time if emotional situations flare up. Try to be optimistic and offer unique solutions instead of getting upset. Learn from your past mistakes and you will avoid making an unnecessary mistake. **★★★★**

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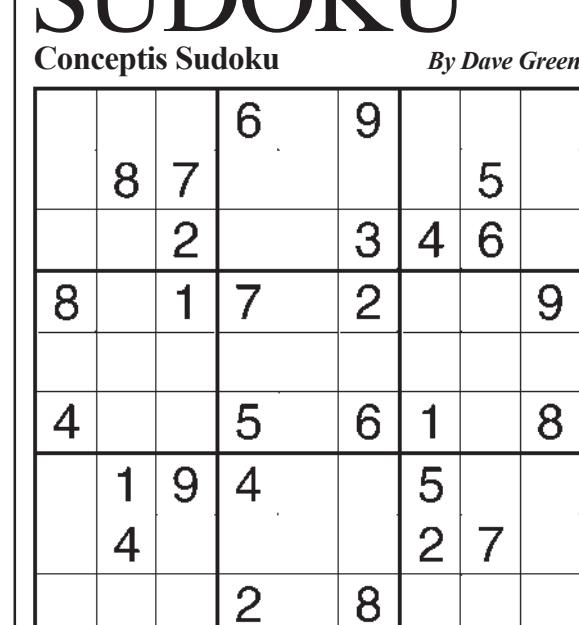
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CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotions will surface if you let what others do get to you. Avoid attempting anything that may result in minor injuries or poor health. Look

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

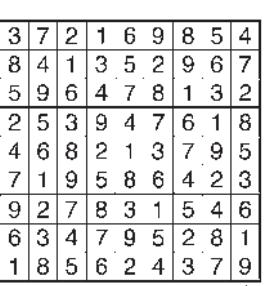
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



2/07

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BETTING ON THE PONIES

Solution: 10 letters



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To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47, order online at www.WonderwordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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Celtics say goodbye to Pierce, beat Clippers, 107-102



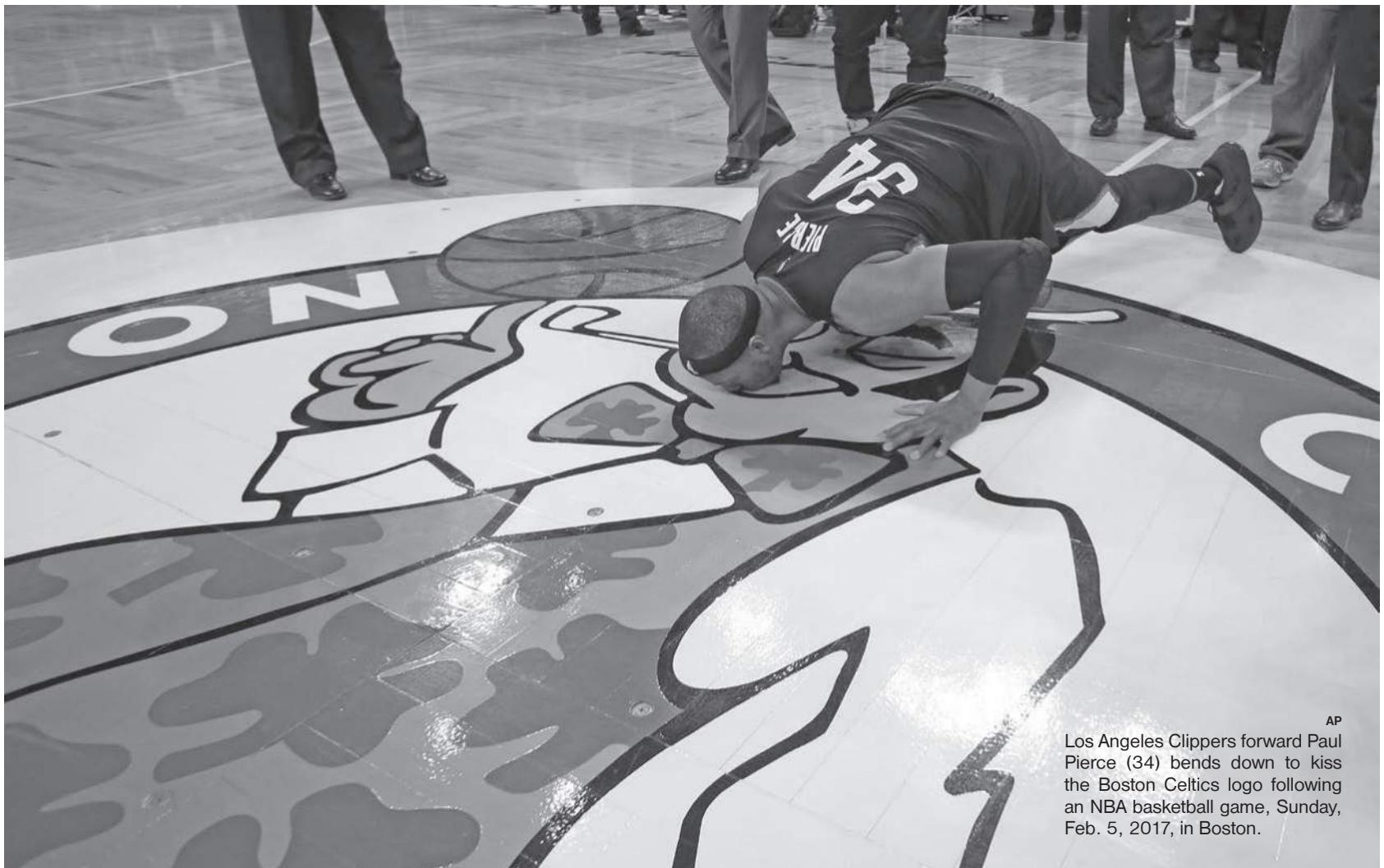
BOSTON (AP)—Isaiah Thomas stole the spotlight from Paul Pierce on Sunday, scoring 28 points to lead Boston to its seventh straight victory, a 107-102 win over the Los Angeles Clippers in the former Celtics captain's final game in the Garden.

Al Horford had 13 points and a season-high 15 rebounds for the Celtics, who brought Pierce to tears with a first-quarter highlight video. Thomas had eight assists but had a four-game streak of 35-point games snapped.

Blake Griffin and Jamal Crawford scored 23 apiece, and DeAndre Jordan had 16 rebounds for Los Angeles, which lost for the sixth time in eight games. Pierce's only points came on a 3 after checking in with 19 seconds left and the game out of reach.

With fans undecided on whether to cheer louder for the Celtics, for Pierce, or for the New England Patriots, who played in the Super Bowl later Sunday, the basketball team held on as the Clippers cut a 12-point lead to 103-99 in the final minute.

Pierce started and played the first five minutes and then went to the bench—even as the crowd chanted his name, egged on by the Celtics cheerleaders and even Thomas himself. After Griffin missed a 3-pointer that could have made it a one-possession game, Pierce checked back in for the final possessions and, with the fans already standing and cheering, hit a 3-pointer that was mean-



AP
Los Angeles Clippers forward Paul Pierce (34) bends down to kiss the Boston Celtics logo following an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017, in Boston.

ingful only to them.

As the crowd was filtering out to get home in time for the Super Bowl, Pierce walked back onto the parquet floor, dropped to his knees, and kissed the leprechaun at center court.

Pierce, 39, has said he will retire after the season. He had not played since Dec. 31 but former Celtics coach Doc Rivers put him in the starting lineup so he could have a fitting farewell.

Boston scored the first six

points of the game and had a 29-14 lead late in the first quarter. The Clippers ran off 10 straight points in the second—five from Raymond Felton followed by five from Jamal Crawford—to make it a two-point game.

But it was 56-47 at the half and a 14-point Boston lead at the end of three. The Clippers got within four in the final minute, 103-99, but Griffin missed a 3 from the left side, Horford got the rebound and

sank his foul shots.

Thunder 105, Trail Blazers 99

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 19 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter, powering Oklahoma City to the victory.

Westbrook also had eight assists and four rebounds in his eighth 40-point performance of the season. Victor Oladipo added 24 points and 13 boards, helping Oklahoma

City (30-22) move within a half-game of idle Memphis for sixth in the Western Conference.

Damian Lillard had 29 points and seven rebounds for Portland (22-30), which has dropped three of four. C.J. McCollum added 19 points and eight boards.

Westbrook punctuated his big day with a 3-pointer with 1:18 remaining, lifting Oklahoma City to a 100-93 lead. He capped it off by hitting five free throws in the final minute as the crowd chanted “MVP! MVP!”

Raptors 103, Nets 95

In New York, Kyle Lowry played through illness and injury to finish with 15 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his

ninth career triple-double, leading Toronto to the road win.

Playing again without leading scorer DeMar DeRozan, the slumping Raptors ended a two-game losing streak and won for just the third time in 11 games. Jonas Valanciunas had a game-high 22 points.

Already feeling ill, Lowry needed four stitches after cutting his right forearm on a camera mounted to the basket stanchion. But he played 40 minutes without much backup support, with Fred VanVleet shooting 2 for 10 from the field and Cory Joseph not playing at all.

Brook Lopez scored 20 for the Nets, who have lost nine in a row overall and 12 straight at home, where they haven’t won in 2017.

Clippers' Paul Pierce starts in emotional Boston farewell

BOSTON (AP)—With a deafening cheer and a shout of “Let’s go, Pats,” Paul Pierce was back in Boston on Super Bowl Sunday to give Celtics fans one last chance to celebrate the player who helped the NBA’s most-decorated franchise return to the top of the league.

Restored to the Los Angeles Clippers’ starting lineup by current and former coach Doc Rivers, Pierce was greeted with a long and loud ovation at his introduction, when the new Boston Garden rang out again with his nickname: The Truth. A highlight video at the first timeout appeared to bring him to tears.

“I’m glad Doc was able to get me out there one last time, knowing that this would be my last game as a player in the Boston Garden,” Pierce said after signing autographs before the game. “I’m just soaking it all in, enjoying every moment of it, giving it back to the fans what they gave me.”

A first-round draft pick out

of Kansas in 1998, Pierce toiled in Boston through the down years of M.L. Carr and Rick Pitino, watching as the once-proud team lost a franchise-record 18 games in a row while he was injured in 2006-07. The next year, after the Celtics acquired Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen, Boston won its NBA-record 17th championship, and Pierce was the finals MVP.

But as the New Big Three aged, general manager Danny Ainge traded them—and Rivers—off for the draft choices that would help them rebuild. Pierce spent time in Brooklyn and Washington before reuniting with Rivers in Los Angeles.

“The memories are always going to be with me,” Pierce said. “(I will) always have a relationship with these guys; it’s just something that when you win a championship, you know it forms a natural bond with you and your teammates that you share with each other forever. And so I’ll forever

hold that.”

Pierce’s No. 34 Celtics jerseys filled the crowd—more even than the Patriots shirts worn by fans looking to rush home after the game to watch the football team play Atlanta in the Super Bowl. During a silent moment in national anthem—a shout came from the stands: “Let’s go, Pats!”

Fans held up signs thanking Pierce for his time in Boston. He left as the No. 2 scorer in franchise history and No. 3 in games, minutes, and baskets made.

Pierce spent Saturday visiting some old Boston favorites and recording it—including a chance encounter with current Celtics all-star Isaiah Thomas—on Instagram.

Even walking into the building, Pierce said, gave him chills.

“When you spend 15 years in one place, it’s hard to let it go,” he said. “When you come back to it, you just kind of go around and reminisce about it and enjoy the time

that I had here.”

Pierce, 39, hadn’t played since Dec. 31 and has appeared in just 12 games this season for the Clippers. He started the game with a missed shot and was still 0 for 1 when went to the bench at the first timeout.

But that didn’t dampen the emotion of the highlight video that followed him from Kansas to the draft, showing him posing with Celtics patriarch Red Auerbach, hitting game-winning baskets and raising the NBA championship and finals MVP trophies.

The sold-out Garden stood and cheered for more than a minute. Pierce waved, blew kisses to the crowd and appeared to lose his composure, taking several deep breaths and wiping his eyes with a towel.

“I spent 15 years here, and these people really appreciate what I was able to bring to the game,” he said before the game. “So it is, it is like my going-out moment.”

O No, Canada: Singer flubs anthem at Raptors game in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—O No, Canada.

A Broadway performer botched the Canadian national anthem before the Toronto Raptors’ game in Brooklyn on Sunday, singing lyrics that aren’t in “O Canada.”

Amber Iman, who has been cast in the national tour of “Hamilton” that will soon open, sang, “O Canada, we sing our hearts for thee.” The line that ends the song is “O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.”

Raptors players and coaches looked around in confusion as they stood in line.

“I’m going to leave that alone. But yeah, that anthem was a lot different than I’ve heard over the last five years. A lot different,” Raptors All-Star Kyle Lowry said. “Her voice was beautiful, but the anthem, the song, the words ... have her come to Toronto, we’ll come and get somebody to give her some lessons.”

The Raptors responded by poking fun at the Nets on Twitter, writing “For future reference” and posting the correct lyrics to the song.

The Nets apologized to the singer for the prompter failing according to a spokeswoman at the Barclays Center.

Steinbrenner says the future is now for young Yanks

 **P A L M BEACH, Fla.** (AP)—Baby Bombers mean a lower payroll but higher expectations for the New York Yankees.

Owner Hal Steinbrenner believes the Yankees' youth movement will pay off this season, and not just with a reduction in spending. He anticipates an abundance of precocious talent will return the Yankees to the postseason.

"I always think I have a playoff team," Steinbrenner said Thursday at Major League Baseball's owners' meetings. "A lot of things have to go right. I get it. But I think the potential is there if things do."

New York missed the playoffs last year for the third time in the past four seasons. But catcher Gary Sanchez, right fielder Aaron Judge and first baseman Tyler Austin joined the big league team in August and helped stage a late run at a wild-card berth.

First baseman Greg Bird is back from shoulder surgery that sidelined him for all of last season. New York also has acquired several top prospects in trades, including shortstop Gleyber Torres, outfielders Clint Frazier and Rashad Crawford and left-hander Jus-tus Sheffield.

It means a new look for a franchise that long relied heavily on high-priced thirty-somethings.

"We know from our fans this is as excited as they have been in a while," Steinbrenner said. "Maybe it's because we did not do a good job for a number of years getting kids from Single A all the way up to the varsity club...."

"Every spring training brings new hope. But this one feels different, and there's no doubt the kids are a part of it."

Last year the Yankees cut payroll to roughly \$224 million but still paid about \$26.5 million in luxury tax. Payroll will be further reduced this season and next by relying on youth and losing some big contracts.

"It's going to allow me to get down to where I think no team should have to be (at the most) to win a championship, which is right around the threshold," Steinbrenner said. "But these young players are going to have to pan out. That's going to be part of the equation."

On other matters:

■ Former slugger Alex Rodriguez is expected to make a significant contribution during two appearances at spring training in an instructor role. "He clearly wants to be a part of it," Steinbrenner said. "I think you'll see him toward the beginning and then toward the middle. He's such a good



AP
New York Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner talks with reporters following a meeting with Major League Baseball owners, Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017, in Palm Beach, Fla.

teacher and mentor."

■ Some fans were disappointed the Yankees reacquired reliever Aroldis Chapman, who signed a \$86 million, five-year contract. Chapman was suspended for the Yankees' first 29 games last season under baseball's domestic violence policy stemming from an October 2015 disturbance involving his girlfriend.

"He admitted he messed up," Steinbrenner said. "He paid the penalty, right? Sooner or later we forget, right? That's the way we're supposed to be in life. Obviously he is a special player. It's a lot of money for a reliever."

■ Steinbrenner acknowledged uncertainty about a thin rotation that will include Masahiro Tanaka, Michael Pineda and CC Sabathia. Among those competing for the other two spots will be Luis Severino, Adam Warren, Bryan Mitchell, Luis Cessa and Chad Green.

"It will be an interesting March," Steinbrenner said.

Baseball owners look at rule changes to speed up game

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—For those rooting for baseball to speed up the game, Commissioner Rob Manfred says: have patience.

Owners and players ratified a new collective bargaining agreement in December, but they're still negotiating innovations designed to improve the pace of play. Owners discussed the issue during two days of meetings that concluded Friday.

"We did review some rule changes largely related to pace of game that are being discussed with the players' association," Manfred said. "More to follow when those negotiations are complete."

Manfred has pushed for faster games since he became commissioner two years ago. But the average time of a nine-inning game last season was 3 hours, a 4-minute increase over 2015. One playoff game took more than 4½ hours.

The new CBA, which extends labor peace to 26 years through 2021, addresses issues such as smokeless tobacco and World Series home-field advantage but not on-field rules.

"Given the really serious big economic issues on the table, I think it's unrealistic to think that you're going to get an agreement (regarding pace of play) when you're



Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred speaks during a news conference following a meeting with MLB owners, Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, in Palm Beach, Fla.

doing the overall agreement," Manfred said. "As is the usual course in the offseason, we're turning to the playing rule issues now."

Management would like to tighten restrictions on trips to the mound and introduce a pitch clock, which has been used in Triple-A and Double-A the past two seasons. Players generally have resisted such changes, and many say there's no problem with the length of games.

Manfred disagrees.

"Pace of play is an issue that 'we' need to be focused on," he said. "The 'we' there is players, owners, umpires, everyone who is invested in this game."

"I don't think there's a magic bullet that is going to come one year to be the solution to pace of play. It's going to be an ongoing effort to make sure our game moves along in a way that is most attractive to our fans."

Miami Marlins president David Samson said Major

League Baseball is aware that despite much talk about the need to speed up games in recent years, the problem has gotten worse.

"Pace of game is critical," Samson said. "We know that from our fans and TV partners. We have to recognize the reality of life today, which is that attention spans are going down and choices are going up. Whatever business you're in, you have to adjust."

Among other issues Manfred discussed following the

meetings:

■ Major League Baseball is "monitoring the developments" regarding recent changes in U.S. immigration policy by President Donald Trump, Manfred said. "Obviously our foremost concern is that players that are under contract with our organizations be able to come and go," Manfred said. "As of right now the countries that have been mostly affected are not places where we have players."

■ The new CBA eliminates the provision that gave World Series home-field advantage to the All-Star winner, but Manfred said players will still be motivated to win the All-Star Game. "I am a believer that when our players go out on the field they want to win, whether it's in the All-Star Game or any other game," he said.

■ The quality of players taking part in the World Baseball Classic will be high, Manfred said, even though the event takes place during spring training. "I am pleased with the level of cooperation we've had from the teams," he said.

■ Houston's Jim Crane and San Diego's Ron Fowler replaced Minnesota's Jim Pohlad and St. Louis' Bill DeWitt Jr. on the executive council.

Sai Sei upsets Aces, faces GSM Masters in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sai Sei stunned pennant champions BSI Aces in their semis game, 11-7, to march into the finals of the 2016 Masters Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

An 11-run top of the first inning was all the fourth-ranked Sai Sei needed to eliminate the top seeded BSI Aces and set up a title match against the GSM Masters. Sai Sei and the GSM Masters, who earlier grabbed the first finals berth after outclassing the Old Stars in their semis game last Thursday, 29-19, will go for all the marbles tonight at 6:30pm.

Sai Sei caught the BSI Aces' defense napping at the start of their Final Four duel, as seven of the former's top of the order reached home and three scored twice. Shortstop Ota Nobuyu-



ki was among the Sai Sei players who made it home twice, but his biggest contribution at the top of the first inning was his three RBIs. He had an RBI single in his first at-bat and a two-run single in his second.

Sai Sei got seven earned runs, three off the BSI Aces' defensive lapses, and one off a passed ball for the early double-digit lead.

The BSI Aces, who topped the regular season with its 8-2 record, tried, but failed to overhaul the deficit as they scored no more than two runs in each of the first four innings they lit up the board and were held to one in the last three.

An RBI single from Dennis Ngeskebei gave the BSI Aces their seventh run with two outs. That was also the last as fifth batter J.J. Cabrera flied out with Sai Sei pitcher Damian Kuich catching the ball.

In the other semis battle, the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Sai Sei's Damian Kuich receives the bat from his teammate during their regular season game against the BSI Aces in the 2016 Masters Baseball League last month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

FALCONS'

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in NFL history.

That's little consolation to the Falcons.

"That's a hard one in the locker room," coach Dan Quinn said. "No place to put that one mentally for us. But I am proud of the fight these guys have. The brotherhood this group has built, it's as strong as I've ever seen."

In the A-T-L, this will join the Braves blowing a 6-0 lead in Game 4 of the 1996 World Series, the Hawks squandering a chance to eliminate Larry Bird and the Boston Celtics in the 1988 NBA playoffs, and Danny White leading the Dallas Cowboys back from 10 points down in the fourth quarter to beat the Falcons

in a 1981 playoff game.

But, really, nothing comes close to this level of sporting disappointment.

The Falcons spent 2½ quarters playing with the swagger and confidence of a team that wasn't the least bit concerned about their city's history. Heading to the fourth quarter, they were still up 28-9. The Patriots tacked on a field goal early in the fourth, but Atlanta was still comfortably ahead.

Then, the play that turned the momentum solidly in New England's favor.

MVP Matt Ryan dropped back to pass, was hit by Dont'a Hightower just before his arm came forward to pass, and the ball popped loose. The Patriots recovered at the Atlanta 25.

It was the only Falcons' turnover of the postseason.

"We had some opportunities to make plays," Ryan said. "We just missed on a couple of things and just made a few mistakes and ultimately, when you're playing a real good football team like New England, those mistakes ended up costing us."

Even after Ryan's turnover and the ensuing Patriots touchdown, Atlanta was still in position to put the victory away when Julio Jones made a stunning catch along the sideline, ripping the ball away from a defender and somehow getting both feet down before tumbling out of bounds at the New England 22.

With under 5 minutes remaining and the Falcons still up 28-20, all they needed to do was run three more plays and set up for a field goal by

Pro Bowl kicker Matt Bryant that would finally put the Patriots away.

Devonta Freeman was thrown for a 1-yard loss, but that wasn't a huge deal.

What happened next was a big deal.

Instead of another run, Ryan set up for a pass. He was thrown for a 12-yard loss and, just like that, the Falcons were on the fringe of Bryant's range.

Any hope for a field goal was lost when Jake Matthews was called for a holding penalty that set Atlanta back another 10 yards.

That sequence will surely haunt outgoing offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, who was acclaimed for his work with the league's highest-scoring team and will shortly be named head coach of the San Francisco 49ers.

Brady guided the Patriots (17-2) through a tiring Atlanta defense for fourth-quarter touchdowns on a 6-yard pass to Danny Amendola and a 1-yard run by White, which came with 57 seconds remaining in regulation. White ran for the first 2-pointer and Amendola did the deed with a reception on the second.

Brady finished 43 for 62, the most attempts in Super Bowl history, for 466 yards, also a record, and two touchdowns.

Before the stunning rally - New England already held the biggest comeback in the final period when it turned around a 10-point deficit to beat Seattle two years ago - the Falcons (13-6) appeared poised to take their first NFL championship in 51 seasons.

Having never been in such

a pressurized environment, their previously staunch pass rush disappeared, they stumbled on offense and Brady tore them apart.

"There's nothing you can really say," Ryan said. "That's a tough loss, obviously very disappointing, very close to getting done what we wanted to get done."

It wasn't difficult for Patriots owner Robert Kraft as he accepted the Lombardi Trophy from Commissioner Roger Goodell, who naturally drew a flood of boos from New England fans on hand.

Yes, "Deflategate" might be far behind Kraft and Brady, but it's not forgotten. "Two years ago, we won our fourth Super Bowl down in Arizona and I told our fans that was the sweetest one of all," owner Robert Kraft said. "But a lot has transpired over

the last two years and I don't think that needs any explanation.

"I want to say to our fans,

our brilliant coaching staff,

our amazing players who

were so spectacular, this is

unequivocally the sweetest."

Brady and coach Bill Belichick won their 25th postseason game, by far a record. The Falcons added to Atlanta's long history of pro sports frustration.

Belichick became the first coach with five Super Bowl crowns.

The Patriots won the coin toss for overtime, and by then it was no contest. Brady completed six passes against an overmatched Falcons secondary. A pass interference call took the ball to the 2, and White scooted to his right and barely over the goal line.

His teammates streamed

GSM Masters saved the best for last, collecting 13 runs at the bottom of the sixth inning to secure the early victory via the 10-run mercy rule.

The GSM Masters' juggernaut capped their strong finish to rally past the Old Stars, who once led by 9, 13-4, after three complete innings. A seven-run top of the fourth followed by five runs in the fifth moved the GSM within 3, 16-19. The Old Stars were threatened after

making only three runs each in the fourth and fifth.

In the sixth inning, all of the GSM Masters top of the order reached home and four scored twice to turn things around for the team and push the Old Stars on the brink of elimination. The Old Stars were eventually booted out after a 1-2-3 inning at the bottom sixth. James Fleming and Ben Tagabuel went down on a double play, while Bernard Cabrera flied out to third base.

BRADY

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He then directed the drive in overtime which ended with a 2-yard run by James White to make the Patriots the first team to win a Super Bowl after trailing by more than 10 points.

"We all brought each other back," he said. "We never felt out of it. It was a tough battle."

His performance certainly wasn't without its struggles. His incredible second half and overtime came after a first half where the Patriots managed just three points and he threw an interception which Robert Alford returned 82 yards for a touchdown. He was hurried and harassed for much of the games. The Falcons sacked him five times and hit him on another eight occasions.

He noted the beating he took when he was trying to recount the details of the comeback and couldn't remember what the score was at one point in the rally.

"There was a lot of (stuff) that happened tonight," he said. "I got hit pretty hard."

His 466 yards passing are a Super Bowl record, surpassing the 414 yards Kurt Warner had 17 years ago. He also set a record for most passes completed in a Super Bowl with 43 and most attempts with 62.

He is the first to play in seven Super Bowls and the victory ties him with Charles Haley for most Super Bowl rings.

After all Brady has done in his career, was this his finest moment?

"Tom's had a lot of great ones," coach Bill Belichick said. "But, yeah tonight was one of them."

It's a triumphant end to a difficult season for Brady, who missed the first four games because of his "Deflategate" suspension and dealt with his mother Galynn Brady suffering through an undisclosed illness. The Super Bowl was the first game she's attended all season.

"They're all happy," he said fighting back tears. "It's nice to have everybody here and it's going to be a great celebration tonight."

He shared a quick moment with her right after the game, but was looking forward to more time with her in the upcoming days.

"It's kind of madness after the game so I didn't get much quality time with her but we'll get it this week," he said.

But he certainly wasn't asking for sympathy for his rough road to this title though, chuckling when someone asked about the adversity the Patriots have gone through in the past couple of years.

immediately in the second period as Brady and Edelman connected twice for 40 yards. But LeGarrette Blount's fumble turned the momentum to the Falcons, who then took their biggest lead in a Super Bowl—yeah, we know, they have been here only twice—on Freeman's 5-yard run to cap a quick 71-yard drive on which Jones came alive.

Jones showed why he is an All-Pro receiver with a tough leaping catch over the middle for 19 yards, then got open on the sideline for 23. Freeman did the rest.

Before New England could catch its breath, Ryan had the Falcons up 14-0. Using the no-huddle attack to perfection, he threw for 51 yards on a 52-yard drive, hitting Hooper with a pinpoint pass in the left side of the end zone.

Euphoria, shock, despair at Super Bowl parties on Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

In between chicken wings, flavored fries, and gulps of their favorite beverage, Saipan's adoring gridiron fans endured a rollercoaster of emotion as they witnessed the greatest comeback in Super Bowl history yesterday in various watering holes and venues around the island.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres boldly predicted the New England Patriots will shut down the Atlanta Falcons.

The Pats did—in the fourth quarter—to set up the epic comeback en route to a 34-28 overtime victory in Super Bowl LI.

Torres was among the thousands of Saipan football fans who witnessed the Patriots historic title win against the No. 1 offensive team in the NFL this season.

"The Patriots have been to the Super Bowl a lot of times and they know what to do in big games like this. They did well in the past and their experience will be their advantage against the Falcons," said Torres, who watched Super Bowl LI at Naked Fish yesterday with his wife Diann, family members, and friends.

"I took some time off to watch this exciting game and be with my family and friends," the governor added.

Jacob Villagomez was also off from work, allowing him to watch the game at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club. The Patriots' victory was a sort of sweet revenge for him.

"Monday is my regular off so it's perfect timing. I want the Patriots to win because the Falcons beat my favorite team—the Green Bay Packers," he said.

Earlier in the first half, Villagomez, who was among the more than 150 spectators at Charley's Cabaret yesterday, was scratching his head as the Patriots committed miscues and gave up three touchdowns to the Falcons. The Falcons went on to end the half with a 21-3 advantage and then tast-

ed their biggest lead early in the third, 28-3, on Tevin Coleman's TD off a 6-yard pass from quarterback Matt Ryan.

The Falcons' fourth TD drew a loud cheer from the gallery where John Castro was seated along with his cousin and some friends.

"The Patriots' defense can't stop the Falcons' offense. Tom Brady is mad at himself. He is frustrated with those interceptions. He's done. Falcons all the way," said Castro.

Castro and his fellow Falcons fans, as it turned out, celebrated prematurely because Brady and coach Bill Belichick made the necessary adjustments in the second half, while Julian Edelman and James White delivered in the homestretch to steal the win.

Brady also earned his record fifth Super Bowl title and was named MVP—a recognition that Rico Morales has anticipated.

"Brady will give the Patriots the Super Bowl LI and he will also take the MVP award. He is better than Matt Ryan and he knows what it takes to win the Super Bowl with his skills and leadership," said Morales, who wore Brady's jersey while watching the match at Naked Fish with his son Jun.

Over at Bubba Gump, Mobil Oil Marianas treated some 75 of its top Smiles Card customers to a free breakfast and lunch buffet while enjoying Super Bowl LI between the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons.

Ernest Camacho, 29, of Koblerville said the Patriots' comeback from 25 points down early in the third quarter was simply amazing. He said yesterday's game was the greatest Super Bowl ever.

He admitted though that he



thought Brady and Belichick's partnership was all but done when they went down early against NFL regular season MVP Matt Ryan and the Falcons.

Kyle Cabael seconded Camacho when he said that little bit of doubt crept in when the Falcons erected what seemingly was an insurmountable lead early in the second half.

Even Francisco Nicolas, 37, second-guessed Brady's resolve to rally the Patriots, but said the historic comeback just made Super Bowl LI more memorable. "It just made it more sweeter."

At Tribe's Bar, Carlos Rivera said some 40 gridiron fans packed the venue. He said early on Falcons fans were ecstatic as their team spotted the Patriots 21-3 after the first half. They were bordering in euphoria when another touchdown had Atlanta up by 25 points early in the third quarter.

Eighty percent of the crowd, however, could only watch in numb silence when Brady and company completed the greatest comeback in Super Bowl history.

Rivera thanked MARPAC for organizing their Super Bowl party and said over \$300 worth of prizes was given away. The luckiest of the customers was

Fernando Estella who went home with a barbecue grill.

Everest Kitchen also had its Super Bowl event that was held in partnership with Saipan Brewing Co. Assistant brewer Jay Wolf said the restaurant was a full house and patrons were able to imbibe on their best selling concoction Beermosa, which is an orange juice and wheat beer.

In all, \$500 worth of gift certificates and in-kind items were raffled off by Saipan Brewing with the help of sponsors Joeten Group of Companies and Get Fit CNMI. The \$100 in cash grand prize was won by Greg Villagomez. *(With Mark Rabago)*



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Pacific Islands Club hosted a fun contest during halftime break in the New England Patriots-Atlanta Falcons game in the Super Bowl LI.



MARK RABAGO
Saipan Brewing Co. Assistant brewer Jay Wolf, left, and brew master Steven Sablan hosted their own Super Bowl party at Everest Kitchen.



MARK RABAGO
New England Patriots fans at Bubba Gump Saipan are in stunned silence after the Atlanta Falcons raced to a big lead in the first half of Super Bowl LI.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
John Castro, front row second left, joins his relatives and friends in watching Super Bowl LI yesterday at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, his wife Diann, and MARPAC's James Lee pose for a photo before watching Super Bowl LI at Naked Fish yesterday.



MARK RABAGO
Tribe's Bar was dominated by Atlanta Falcons whose jubilation turned to disbelief when the New England Patriots rallied in the fourth quarter and won in overtime.



Brady leads biggest Super Bowl comeback

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

HOUSTON (AP)—They looked old and outmanned. Their star quarterback was frazzled, their stingy defense was a sieve.

So what? Tom Brady and the New England Patriots shrugged and did what they always seem to do: Win the Super Bowl.

Brady led one of the greatest comebacks in sports history highlighted by a Julian Edelman catch that was almost beyond belief. The Patriots pulled themselves out of a 25-point hole against the

Atlanta Falcons to a 34-28 win for New England's fifth NFL championship. It was the first Super Bowl decided in overtime.

"There were a lot of plays

» **Patriots win 34-28 in OT**

that coach talks about, you never know which one is going to be the Super Bowl winner," said Brady, who earned a record

fourth MVP award and a fifth Super Bowl ring, the most for a quarterback. "There were probably 30 of those plays tonight and (if) any one of those

See SUPER BOWL on Page 26

Falcons' flop a new low for Atlanta's sad sporting history

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP SPORTS WRITER

HOUSTON (AP)—Well, Atlanta, there's nothing left to say.

The city once known as "Loserville" was cruising toward its first Super Bowl championship, leading Tom Brady and the mighty New England Patriots by 25 points.

TWENTY-FIVE!

Back in Atlanta, the city was all ready to bust loose in a celebration like no other, seemingly assured of finally putting to rest its history of sports flops.

Then, it happened.

The greatest flop of them all. This one will take a long, long time to get over.

"I'm kind of numb," said Falcons safety Ricardo Allen, who might as well been



Atlanta Falcons fan CJ Scott hangs his head in his hands at Taco Mac restaurant in Atlanta after watching on television the New England Patriots beat Atlanta in the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game being played in Houston, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017.

speaking for an entire city. "I don't really know what to feel. I'm broken inside, because this is not us. I'm kind of numb to the feeling, man. It's terrible. It's

one of the worst feelings ever. I'm not a guy that forgets very easy. I'll probably never forget this. It will always be haunting." Brady engineered a stun-

ning comeback, leading the Patriots to a pair of touchdowns and a pair of 2-point conversions that sent the Super Bowl to overtime for the first time.

At that point, it was a mere formality.

The Patriots won the coin toss. Of course.

The Patriots drove right down the field for the championship-winning touchdown.

Of course.

The final: New England 34, Atlanta 28.

Brady will long be remembered for his record-breaking performance, completing 43 of 62 passes for 466 yards, and this will certainly go down as one of the greatest title games

See FALCONS' on Page 26



AP
New England Patriots' Tom Brady raises the Vince Lombardi Trophy, after defeating the Atlanta Falcons in overtime at the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017, in Houston.

Brady earns 4th Super Bowl MVP trophy with epic comeback

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP SPORTS WRITER

HOUSTON (AP)—The greatest quarterback in NFL history led the biggest Super Bowl comeback to be the MVP on Sunday night.

Tom Brady rallied New England from a 25-point third-quarter deficit for a 34-28 win over the Atlanta Falcons in the first overtime game in Super Bowl history to earn his fifth Super Bowl

title and fourth MVP trophy. "They're all sweet," he said. "They're all different and this was just an incredible team and I'm just happy to be a part of it," he said.

Brady threw touchdown passes of 5 and 6 yards in the second half and tied things at 28-28 when he connected with Danny Amendola on a 2-point conversion with 57 seconds left.

See BRADY on Page 26